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11 Weekender
Cream of the crop



14 Flair
High heels, low prices



18 Sports
Pakistan crushes Windies

INDEX

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Business | 15 |
| Food | 12 |
| Movies, TV, Crossword | 19 |
| Opinion | 10 |
| Weekender | 11 |
| Sports | 20 |

No written warnings expected in Mashaal Affair Report: Yatom warned verbally by Ciechanover

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
The commission investigating the failed assassination of Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal issued a verbal warning to Mossad chief Danny Yatom and another top official that they are likely to be harmed by its report, Channel 2 reported last night.

It also reported that Yatom testified yesterday before the commission, headed by El Al chairman Joseph Ciechanover. It was reportedly the third time that Yatom has testified, and it was apparently at his request, since he wished to refute charges made by others in his testimony. Yatom was reportedly warned that he is likely to suffer from the conclusions of the

investigation into the bungled September 25 operation in Amman. The report said that a decision was made to give the warnings verbally, instead of in writing. It noted that the warning concerned only their actions regarding the Mashaal, not their futures with the Mossad. The other person who was warned, according to the report, was "H," Yatom's

unofficial deputy and head of operations, who has been identified by foreign reports as Haim Keiry. The reports strengthened speculation that the panel would place most of the blame for the abortive assassination on the Mossad, and not on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

According to the report, Ciechanover did not want to blame any individuals, but fellow commission members Rafi Peled and Dan Tolkowsky disagreed. They then sought the opinions of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel, who backed Peled and Tolkowsky and ruled that in light of the gravity of the matter, the committee is

obliged to consider recommendations against those involved and to warn them that they may be harmed. Sources close to the inquiry said the committee is expected to finalize its conclusions soon. But now that Yatom and "H" have been warned, they have the right to see material pertaining to them and refute the charges, the report said.

AGENDA
By ANSHAM BAR-YOSEF

Clinton's ultimatum

At the beginning of the week, a significant report on CNN radio generated no response from Jerusalem, as the item drowned in the sea of local news, ranging from the murder-suicide of Anat Elimelech and David Afuta to the general strike that broke out following a slip of the tongue by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman. CNN's political reporter, Steve Hurst, reported on Monday that US President Bill Clinton plans to announce a

Marathon talks held to end strike

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, LIAT COLLINS, and DAVID HARRIS
Histadrut and Treasury teams entered intensive negotiations last night at President Ezer Weizman's insistence, as the Histadrut threatened to intensify its general strike by shutting the nation's schools today. Yesterday's strike by 700,000 workers virtually paralyzed the country by effectively shutting down airports, seaports, banks, the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, government offices, and state-owned industries. Weizman told reporters that both sides would "sit down and resume the very discussion that stopped three days ago" late last night, "in the hope and wish that... the strike can end as soon as possible." He brought about the talks after brokering a reconciliation meeting at his residence yesterday evening between Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz, who shook hands for the cameras after their 90-minute talk.

"It's clear to all sides that the damage to the economy is great, the damage to the workers is great," Weizman said. "I won't tell you the matter is over. But one thing is happening - that they're ready to sit. I hope... that by morning they will be able to achieve all the things. And if not, we are in a not-so-good situation." Histadrut leaders balked at observing a labor court ruling ordering the workers to return to their jobs by 6 p.m. Peretz avoided calling an end to the strike by appealing to the court for a clarification, and telling the public he was studying the decision. At their meeting, Peretz banded Neeman a list of demands, asking that he promise to observe all agreements between the government and the Histadrut, including those concerning pensions and wages. Another demand called for privatization and other reforms not to go into effect before negotiations with the Histadrut. "The moment you sign this," Peretz said, "I'm sending all the workers back to work." Asked whether he thought a solution would be found, Neeman replied, "I believe in the coming



Histadrut Secretary-General Amir Peretz (left) shakes hands with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman (right) while President Ezer Weizman looks on, after an ice-breaking meeting at Beit Hanassi last night. (Flash 90/Courtesy of Ma'ariv)

Exclusive maps, Page 3

change in America's official policy on the Middle East "that will include support for a viable Palestinian entity in the West Bank, whose eastern border would be along the Jordan River and which would have free access to its Arab neighbors." According to Hurst, the Clinton administration had issued an ultimatum of sorts to Israel, demanding it take significant steps toward stopping construction in the settlements and transferring territory to the Palestinians by the end of the year. Lenny Davis, deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, reported to Jerusalem the next day that an Israeli investigation into the source of the report revealed that it had come from a briefing by State Department spokesman James Rubin. But Davis also reported the response of White House spokesman Mike McCurry: "This sounds like those type of speculations that emerge from the region from time to time, and in the end turn out to be misplaced." See AGENDA, Page 3

Strike disruptions, Page 2

senior officials on personal contracts with the Treasury's approval, he should have taken Peretz's offer and canceled them," a union source said. "But Neeman ignored the offer, because he wants the public to think all the hired workers are overpaid." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on strikers to return to work. "I don't know what they're striking for. It's a political strike. There is not reason for it," he said. Netanyahu also maintained that the strike gives the Israeli economy a bad name and that it harms millions of citizens. In response to a series of motions to the Knesset agenda yesterday, Neeman called on the Histadrut to stop taking measures which he said hurt the workers and their workplaces the most. He said that funds could not be transferred to local authorities unless the issue of over-inflated salaries is addressed. Neeman also complained that the Histadrut called the strike despite a promise not to do so at the labor court on Tuesday. He denied calling Histadrut workers a time bomb. Neeman also said he is willing

to discuss the issues under dispute and that the solution to unemployment does not lie in strikes but in a monetary and fiscal policy which encouraged production and export. Many businessmen and civil servants criticized the strike yesterday as costly and not necessary. The Manufacturers Association estimated the strike's cost at some NIS 53 million. "We've witnessed these strikes for years, and I think its better to sort these differences of opinion out by sitting together and not by striking," said association head Dan Propper. Propper warned that if the strikes continued, foreign investors could be affected. "Peretz must stop the suffering of hundreds of thousands of citizens by the calling a halt to the Histadrut strike," demanded Union of Local Authorities acting chairman Ze'ev Bielski. The ULA condemned the Histadrut for leaving garbage uncollected, welfare services without staff, and kindergartens unopened. Hearing the office workers' union threat to ignore court orders and strike again today, ULA spokesman Hillik Goldstein said: "I don't know if that's just bravado or a real threat, but in any case we really urge them to come back to work." The Israel Merchants Association accused Peretz of irresponsibility. "Employees in private places of work in Israel chose of their own free will not to be organized under the new general Histadrut, and we will always oppose being the tax raisers for the Histadrut," a statement said. The organization added that commerce was up yesterday as a result of the strike: Turnover in Jerusalem was up 50 percent, in Haifa by 45%, in Ramat Gan 37%, and in Rehovot 32%. The Civil Service Commission said it is investigating a number of complaints alleging employees were prevented from entering workplaces by strikers. Workers were allegedly barred from entering the Interior Ministry until 10

a.m. and the Central Bureau of Statistics until 9:30. The commission said it had informed shop stewards that preventing workers from entering government buildings is a crime. A considerable number of workers showed up at several ministries, according to the commission. It added that according to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, those striking will likely lose a day's pay. Staff turnout according to the commission included: Health Ministry, 50%; Environment Ministry, 30%; Public Works Department, 25%; Interior Ministry, 20%; and Agriculture Ministry, 15%.

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Ministers meet to map out pullback

By JAY BUSHINSKY
The four-member cabinet team charged with mapping the extent of the IDF's impending pullback in the West Bank will hold its second session today in an apparent effort to define the geographical scope of the withdrawal in time for Prime Minister Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's talks with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Besides Netanyahu, who heads the team, the members are Foreign Minister David Levy, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Netanyahu said he will present Albright with a detailed plan of the further redeployment at their meeting in Paris tomorrow. However, after a Likud Knesset faction meeting, Netanyahu said that "it will take more time to discuss and formulate decisions with the ministers and [inner] cabinet." Netanyahu said it is noteworthy that the decision on the redeployment was accepted by a large majority of ministers. He called on the Palestinians not to miss the opportunity to further the peace process. There were indications that some of Sharon's concepts were influencing the initial phase of deliberations, as reflected by Levy's comment that the ultimate decision would focus on "quality as well as quantity."

The remark is in line with Sharon's notion that the percentage of territory to be relinquished is less important than its strategic value. He maintains, for example, that the relatively large Jordan Valley is vital to Israeli security, but less important to the Palestinian Authority's interest in bringing sections which are more densely populated by Arabs under its jurisdiction. However, unconfirmed leaks from the initial session suggested that Levy and Mordechai tended to see eye to eye, while Netanyahu tended to support Sharon's territorial thesis. Representatives of the security forces participated in the opening session, Itim reported. It quoted Levy as saying he hopes today's meeting will enable Netanyahu to present the gist of the team's considerations to Albright tomorrow, "even if the precise percentage of terrain to be evacuated has not yet been defined." Liat Collins contributed to this report.

'Foreign Report': Mossad fully operational in England again Officials: Syria misinformation negligible

By JAY BUSHINSKY and DOUGLAS DAVIS
The government may have been led astray by false information about Syrian policy toward Israel and especially with regard to its motives for participating in the peace process.

An authoritative official said this affair is "an embarrassing and unfortunate mishap," but did not elaborate on its origin or cause. Its effect on the the decisions taken by successive governments could not be determined, but Foreign Minister David Levy declared in a Channel 1 interview that sensitive data "is always cross-checked" and that

policy generally is not determined on the basis of a single source. Levy revealed that the government "is checking" this episode in all its aspects. Israel Radio contended that the data in question was deliberately planted. See SYRIA, Page 7

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Albright to press on redeployment, Page 2

Israeli Arabs, Druse want own PM candidate

By DAVID RUDGE
A great majority of Israeli Arab and Druse voters would like to see a candidate representing them run in the next election for prime minister, a survey unveiled yesterday showed. The findings showed that nearly 75 percent of those surveyed on behalf of Tel Aviv University's Program on Arab Politics in Israel, either strongly or moderately supported having an Arab or

Druse candidate run for prime minister. In all, some 600 people, representing a cross-section of Arab and Druse communities, were interviewed face-to-face in October and November. The margin of error was 4%. Those surveyed were asked who they would vote for if elections were held today and the candidates were Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak.

Only 3.2% said they would vote for Netanyahu, compared to 52.3% for Barak. The others said they would cast blank ballots, not vote at all, or were undecided. "In the event of an Arab candidate being fielded, the vote for

Netanyahu remains about the same, while that for Barak drops to 30%," said Dr. Elie Rekhess, director of the Arab politics program, which runs in cooperation with the Adenauer Foundation. "In such circumstances, the Arab candidate takes 45% of the vote, while those undecided, who would not vote, or would put in blank ballots drops to around 18%," Rekhess said. See ARABS, Page 7

NEWS

in brief

Red Cross meets Harari on prisoner swap

Jean-Jacques Fresard, a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, met yesterday with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in negotiations aimed at swapping Lebanese prisoners held by Israel for the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon including naval commando Third Petty Officer Itamar Ilya, who officially declared killed in action in October. Fresard handed Hariri a letter on the topic. He refused to talk to reporters after the meeting. Following a similar meeting with Hariri in October, Fresard said the negotiations could take months.

Lebanese groups hold parts of the bodies of Israeli soldiers killed in a botched commando raid in southern Lebanon on September 5. Twelve soldiers died in the incident. AP

Herziya youth dies in accident

A 14-year-old Herziya youth died yesterday afternoon after he crashed into a glass door.

He had been playing with friends, two of whom ran past the door. He followed and crashed into the door, shattering it, and many shards pierced his body.

The incident occurred across the street from the town's Magen David Adom station, and paramedics were there within minutes, but found him without a pulse and could not revive him.

An ambulance brought him to Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Itm

Arafat to visit Iran for first time in decade

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is to visit Iran for the first time in more than a decade next week to attend the Islamic summit in Tehran, Palestinian officials said yesterday.

"Arafat will fly to Iran on Monday to attend the Organization of Islamic Countries summit (OIC), especially since he was elected deputy chairman of the OIC summit," Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani said. He said Arafat's visit to Iran would be his first in more than a decade and Palestinians hoped the OIC summit would take a strong stance on Jerusalem and protecting Moslem shrines in it. Reuters

Workers defy the union

by HERB KEINON

Barbara Rothbart, a Jerusalem nurse, worked alone for most of the morning yesterday in the striking *tipat halav* (family health) clinic in the capital's Mattersdorf neighborhood, unwilling to take part in a work-stoppage she doesn't believe in.

"I don't think the strike was on behalf of the workers," she said, "but part of the conflict between Labor and the current government. It is an attempt to break the Likud government by causing a lot of unrest among the people."

Rothbart was not alone. Across the country there were reports of people who simply ignored the Histadrut's instructions and showed up for work.

Throughout the settlements in Judea and Samaria, for instance, dozens of workers were at their desks as usual. Itm reported that in the majority of the local councils over the Green Line, secretaries answered phones, and local officials continued to work.

"If the Histadrut were to hold a

referendum, most workers would opt not to go out on strike," Rothbart said. "We don't have a strike fund, and when we strike, we are docked pay."

As proof that the strike was politically oriented, Rothbart cited the increased number of strikes over the last 18 months. "It seems to me we are having a lot more strikes since the Likud is in power," she said.

Rothbart, who has worked at the clinic for the last seven years, said that she was the only one of six nurses who showed up for work yesterday. She received words of support from a number of people who had come to the clinic, unaware that it was not working as usual. A pediatrician also worked for a short period, she said.

"In the past I went on strike like everyone else in my department," Rothbart said. "But I finally decided today that enough is enough. I don't understand what this strike is about. There are workers who do support the strikes, there is a socialist mind-set here, but it is not my mind-set, and I'm sure it is not the mind-set of many other workers."

Garbage strike continues

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The Tel Aviv sanitation workers' strike continued for the seventh day yesterday, after a meeting of the joint municipal-Histadrut team failed to reach an agreement. The team reportedly made certain progress and was to meet again last night.

Tel Aviv District Court is to rule in the dispute between the workers and City Hall in 10 days, Judge Gavriel Kling decided at yesterday's hearing.

The court refused to grant the workers an interim injunction forbidding the city to hire private contractors to collect the garbage, and will only rule on the principle of whether it is legal to employ the contractors or not, Kling said.

Union head Arnon Bar-David said the city is using old contracts, whose validity has expired, to continue employing contractors originally hired to remove debris and junk from the streets. Bar-David noted the contractors were employed without a public tender.

Albright to push redeployment

By HILLEL KUTTLER and JAY BUSHINSKY

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will press Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for specifics about the government's redeployment plan when the two meet tomorrow in Paris.

Albright also announced late Tuesday that she will meet PA chairman Yasser Arafat in Geneva on Saturday. At the same time, State Department spokesman James Rubin denied that the US is pressuring Israel now, only that it feels a sense of urgency to move the peace process ahead and wants both parties to feel the same.

He also sought to steer reporters away from concluding that Paris

meeting is meant solely to explore the redeployment issue, saying that Albright is as concerned with the other three elements of the US's four-part agenda: a settlement time-out, improved security cooperation and advancing to final-status talks. But he said that while the US is unsure about the specifics of the cabinet's plan, "we will know significant, credible and meaningful redeployment when we see it."

"Some of the floated numbers in the media out of Israel were obviously too low. And similarly, some of the floated numbers out of the Palestinian side were obviously unrealistically high."

Rubin also criticized the announcement this week of construction approval for an additional

900 units in the territories, saying it "does not help to create the kind of environment necessary to achieve success in the Middle East peace process."

Coming just two weeks after Albright met separately with the two in Europe, this weekend's meetings are occurring because the US senses "signs of openings that we can exploit and differences that are narrowing" that justify talks "at the political level," Rubin said, apparently referring to the cabinet's approval Sunday of a redeployment in principle.

On the settlement announcement, Rubin said Albright will also lay out the US's opposition on Friday.

"We feel very strongly that there's no way to have a success-

ful path to permanent status negotiations and certainly no way to have success in those negotiations if the very issues that are so sensitive, that are so emotional, are being affected by actions in the meantime. And so she will be making that point," he said.

Netanyahu is scheduled to fly to Germany today for talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Netanyahu's meeting with Kohl is due to take place in the chancellor's private residence, where the prime minister will join him for a late-evening dinner. It will give the prime minister an opportunity to elaborate on his government's intention to redeploy in the West Bank if the Palestinian Authority upholds all the commitments it made in last January's Hebron

agreement. Netanyahu evidently hopes Kohl will prevail upon the European Union to support this position.

He will then proceed to France, where he will meet Albright and confer with French leaders. He is scheduled to meet French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin after meeting Albright, and will meet President Jacques Chirac after Shabbat.

Diplomatic quarters noted that the French chief of state's consent to see Netanyahu on a Saturday night constitutes a friendly gesture, as such meetings normally do not take place in Paris on Saturdays or Sundays.

Netanyahu is tentatively scheduled to return to Israel before dawn on Sunday.

Strike causes severe disruptions

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The nationwide strike, which kept hundreds of thousands of workers off the job yesterday, caused serious disruptions.

Airports, sea ports and railway stations closed down, hospitals operated with skeleton crews and MDA and the Fire and Rescue Service only responded to emergencies.

The strike also included government corporations such as the Israel Electric Corp., Mekorot, Bezeq, the Postal Authority, Israel Aircraft Industries, Rafael and other military industries, banks, local authorities, the legal system (except for the judges) and the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The Amidar and Amigur public housing company offices were closed. Many private plants shut down as well.

At the same time, shopping centers were full. Many malls reported sales were up 20-30 percent. Many shoppers wore the round red stickers issued by the Histadrut, saying "I'm a bomb - made by Neeman" in response to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's calling the workers "exploding homemade bombs."

The strike was far from complete, however. In certain ministries, workers arrived for work as usual, after being advised by the Civil Security Commission that strike days would be deducted from their wages.

At the Jerusalem municipality, the strike was complete: there was no garbage collection, parking inspectors or towing illegally parked vehicles.

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv had a



Strike-stranded passengers at Ben-Gurion airport wait yesterday in the departure lounge for further developments. (AP)

water scare yesterday when Mekorot announced the city's water supply was running out after the striking Mekorot workers shut down the main supply line from the city's primary reservoir in Givatayim.

At mid-day, Mekorot board chairman Doron Grupper advised

the public to use as little water as possible, adding that if the strike continued there would be no water within hours.

In the afternoon Tel Avivians heaved a sigh of relief and emptied the water buckets they had prepared, when Israel Radio announced the water supply "had

stabilized."

Margot Dukkevitch adds: The Nesher cement factory in Ramle made deliveries to the Palestinian Authority despite the strike, which idled some 800 workers in the company's Ramle and Haifa plants.

Nothing was delivered to the

Israeli market. But general manager Yossi Bar-Or said that after negotiating with the Histadrut, the factory was permitted to supply the PA.

He explained that the Palestinian market was a competitive one and the factory did not want to lose its customers.

Palestinian laborers allowed to stay overnight

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Some Palestinian laborers will now be allowed to remain in the country overnight, defense officials said yesterday.

The move is aimed both at easing the travel burden on the Palestinian workers and pressuring employers to hire them instead of foreign laborers.

The Palestinians were informed of the decision during a meeting of the sub-committee on employment, and they praised the move. Eli Paz, a deputy director-general of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, also informed the Palestinians that Israel had decided to implement its policy of cutting the number of foreign workers and would start taking measures to pressure contractors to stop employing them.

There are currently 150,000-200,000 foreign workers, half of whom are illegal.

Permission to sleep over will be given to married

Palestinians over 27 who have at least three years of work experience in Israel and have passed a security check by Israel and the Palestinians.

Employers are required to arrange proper sleeping arrangements for their Palestinian workers and fill out a daily security roster to ensure they remain under their responsibility. They are also required to give a reason why their Palestinian employee must sleep in the country.

The permits will also ease the burden at the crossings and allow the Palestinians to work late shifts. "An added benefit over the foreign workers is that Palestinians return home on weekends," said one defense source.

The Labor Ministry's employment office will be responsible for making sure employers arrange proper sleeping arrangements for the Palestinians and do not let them fend for themselves in the streets.

Document claims Allies knew gold had been stolen from victims

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The London Conference on Nazi Gold erupted yesterday when the World Jewish Congress produced a previously secret document, proving that the three-october postwar commission charged with returning plundered state-owned treasure knew it was dealing in gold that had been looted from individual victims.

The Tripartite Gold Commission, comprising the United States, Britain and France, was set up in 1946 to return gold to countries whose treasuries had been plundered by the Nazi occupiers.

So far it has returned 98.6% of the 337 tons of gold it recovered and is about to return the remaining 5.5 tons, worth some \$60 million, to the 15 countries which were looted.

WJC executive director Elan Steinberg produced a copy of a page from the commission's closed archives which clearly demonstrated that members of the commission were aware that some of the gold was not looted state treasure, but the property of individual Holocaust victims.

The document, said Steinberg, was the "tip of the tip of the iceberg" and indicated that the 5.5 tons, which many want to use to

fund compensation to Holocaust survivors, amounted to just a fraction of the total amount of gold that had been looted from individuals, whose claims were never recognized by the commission.

The document showed that parts of the postwar claims by the central banks of Austria, Holland and Belgium were rejected because the commission concluded that the disallowed claims related to "victim gold" (taken from individuals) rather than "monetary gold" (taken from state reserves).

In the case of Austria, which claimed 91 tons of gold, the commission found that while the gold had indeed been removed from the Austrian central bank after the Anschluss, 13% of it had been "compulsorily acquired" from individuals by the Nazis.

That commission held that 13% of Austria's claim could not, therefore, be considered "monetary gold" and part of Austria's national reserves.

Steinberg appealed for the full archives of the commission to be opened before the final allocations of gold are delivered to the claimant countries, so that a claim to the remaining gold can be lodged on behalf of Holocaust victims.

"We have been trying very hard

to reconstruct the Nazi gold trail," said Steinberg, "and those archives contain research and analysis that draw on primary sources."

There is now no excuse to continue hiding those documents from the light of day." A decision to open the archives can be made only by a unanimous decision of the three nations which comprise the commission. Steinberg said that while the US and Britain support opening the archives, France is opposed.

But when the British government historian, briefing the media, supported "the fullest disclosure of documents" he was immediately prevented from expanding on the issue by the government spokesman.

The spokesman told the bewildered media that Britain, in fact, stood by France and also favored keeping the archives closed until the commission was disbanded. An unusual departure at yesterday's session was an appeal to compose gypsy Holocaust survivors.

Romany Institute representative Donald Kenzie, who made the appeal, told *The Jerusalem Post* that at least 250,000 gypsies died in the Holocaust, but that figure might double after the archives of former communist states are examined.

The Hadassah College of Technology
deeply mourns the passing of

MILTON W. ROTHBAUM

and extends sincerest condolences to its beloved past-chairperson and dear friend Bess G. Rothbaum and the entire family.

Dr. Yaacov Amidi, Director Faculty, Staff and Students at HCT

המכללה לחינוך ע"ש דוד ילין
The David Yellin Teachers College

The Board of Governors, Administration, Faculty and Staff deeply mourn the untimely passing of

RUTH BATKIN 57

a woman of exceptional vision and charm and a tireless supporter of the College.

The College, and all those who knew Ruth, mourn her sudden demise and feel deeply the pain of her absence.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to her husband Sanford, her daughter Helen and son-in-law Marc Younger, her grandson David and her sister Elaina Rosenberg.

May her memory be a blessing, as she was during her lifetime.

Netanyahu again warns Russia about supplying technology to Iran

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possavlyuk was given a message yesterday from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to pass on to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, stating the seriousness with which Israel views his country's supply of missile technology to Iran.

Netanyahu linked his protest to the fact that diplomatic relations between Moscow and Jerusalem are good and that the respective governments are interested in developing them further.

But he stressed that the Iran's missile buildup is an existential issue for Israel, and ultimately will endanger other countries, including Russia itself.

The prime minister reviewed the current status of the Middle East peace process, a subject of particular interest to the deputy foreign minister, who is the Kremlin's new peace envoy to the region.

Possavlyuk next visits Syria, where he will presumably convey his impressions of Israeli policy to the Damascus regime. Before leaving here, he told Netanyahu that Russian Prime Minister

Viktor Chernomyrdin may visit next year.

LIAR.

A cynical history of American Jews

LOUIS BRANDEIS SLEPT HERE... BY DAVID GLUCKER is a tongue-in-cheek history of Jews in America.

"Professor Glucker meets Jackie Mason in this easy reading American Jewish history with plenty of facts, insights, chuckles and shtetl."

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AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

The two versions are no coincidence. They reflect the two approaches prevalent in the administration...

The permanent arrangements

After the government decided in principle to implement a second further redeployment, Likud MK Ruvy Rivlin noted that any decision that on the one hand satisfies the dovish Foreign Minister David Levy of Geshet and, on the other, the hawkish Moshe Peled of Tsomet, is likely to blow up the coalition...

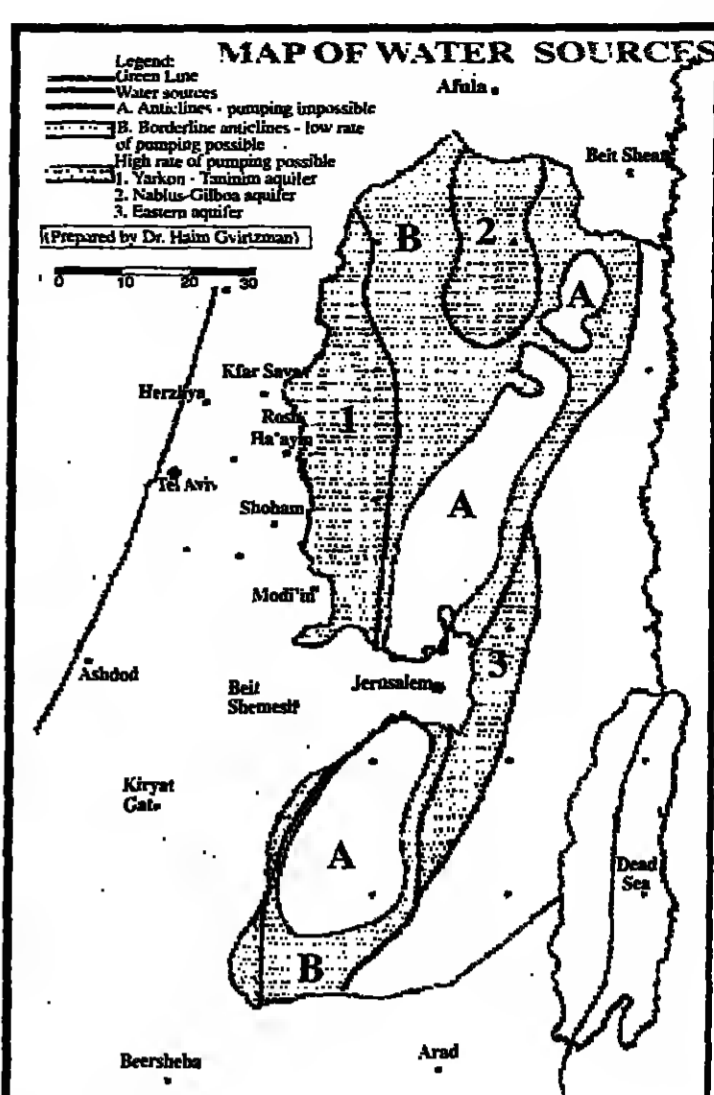
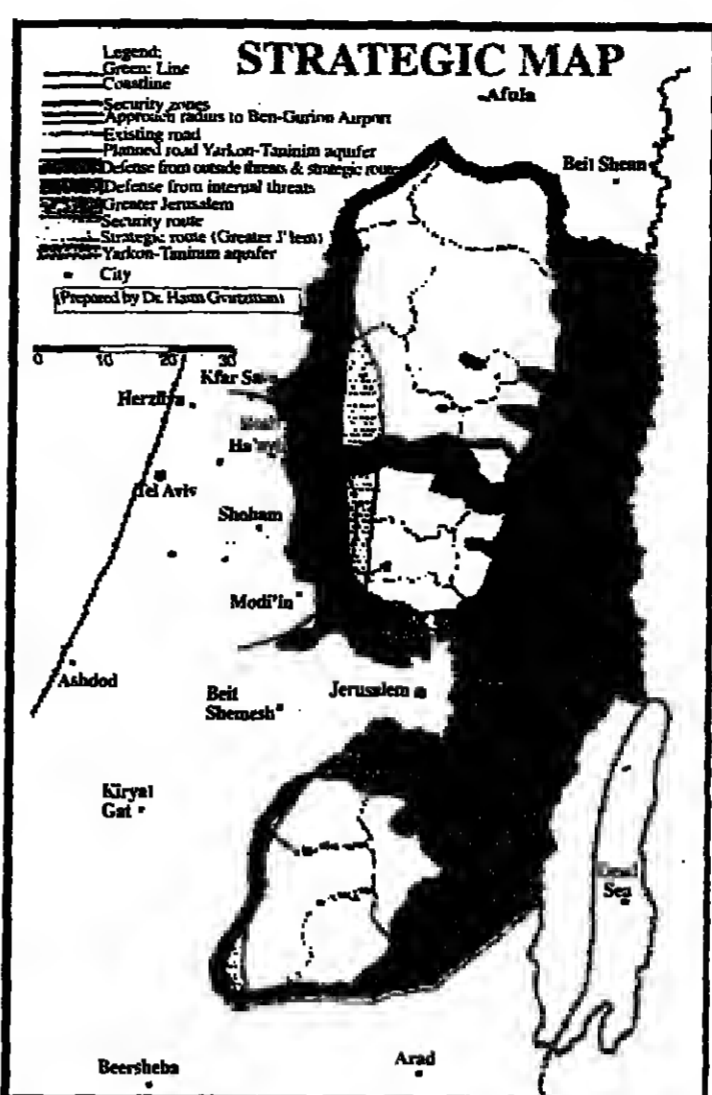
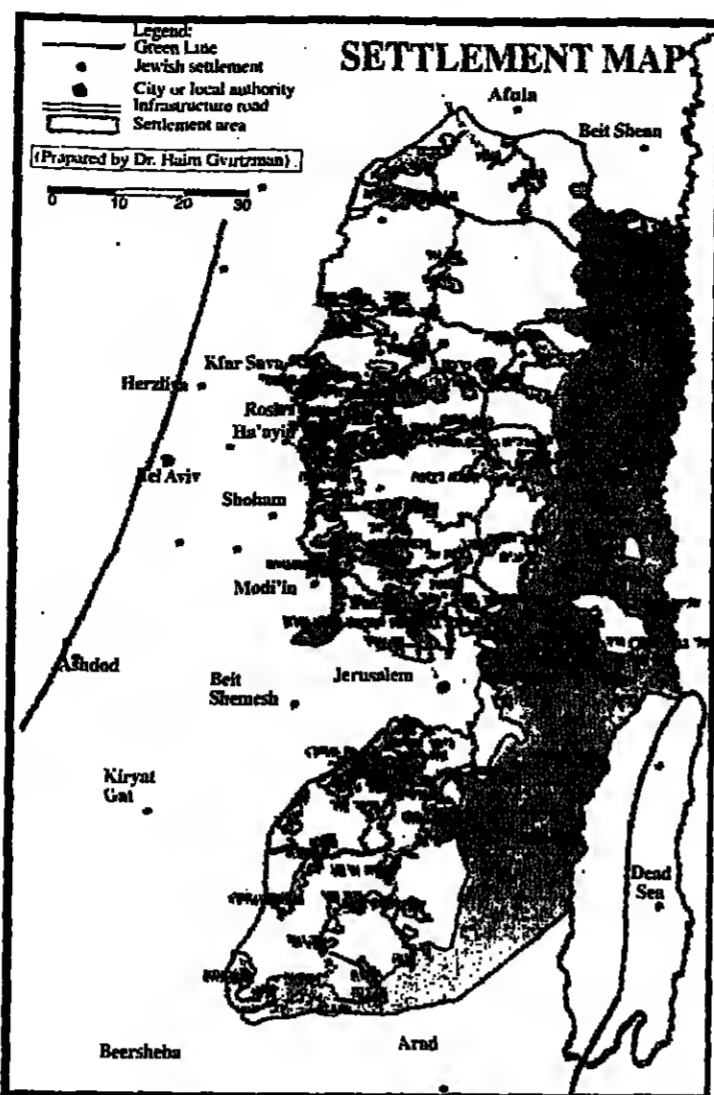
They understand this in Washington - and in Ramallah, too.

The decision by the US administration and by those around Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to give Netanyahu some breathing space is not only based on expectations for the next redeployment, but on the hope that this time, he will not be able to avoid stating his view on the nature of the permanent arrangements...

For more than a year, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky has been demanding a debate on the permanent arrangements. The National-Religious Party and the Third Way also believe that is the only way they can evaluate any further pull-backs...

When this discussion takes place next week, the ministers will be shown four transparencies of maps: one a "strategic" map, i.e., a map of the interests of the IDF; the second, a map showing the area's water sources; the third, a map of the settlements in the West Bank; and the fourth, the Oslo 2 map, which displays the prevailing division of the territory.

After each slide is shown and explained, and it is made clear which territory Israel must retain in the Jordan Valley and on the mountain ridge to defend itself from the east, and along the Green Line to prevent any possible linking of West Bank villages to Israeli Arab villages, the maps will



When the maps are placed on top of each other the resulting image will show what territory Israel can offer the Palestinians.

be placed one on top of the other. The remaining areas, except for those sections needed for east-west connecting roads, can in principle be offered to the Palestinians.

There will be no need to get upset about the modesty of the offer. For one thing, when the Palestinians respond, their counter-offer will be based on the 50-year-old partition plan and their "right of return."

Sharon has already expressed this publicly, and most of the settlers have come to terms with it, even if they don't say so out loud.

What worries the US

This week I visited Nablus. Once, it was the center of Palestinian political activity. In the 1980s, when I covered the territories, I was there almost every day.

Today, Nablus looks like a city of poor workers. You see this first of all in the souk prices. Tomatoes cost half what they do in eastern Jerusalem. Lamb can be had for less than NIS 20 a kilogram.

Only the huge pictures of Yasser Arafat remind one of the street activism. Today the street is interested in earning a living. Twenty percent of the residents are unemployed. Fifty percent can't find work in their fields, and must

make do with whatever small jobs they can pick up. The frustration is great.

This bothers the Americans no less than their inability to reconstruct their coalition against Saddam Hussein. They know that the accusations hurled by the Arab countries against Israel are weak excuses. But the suffering in the territories is real, and the complaints against Israel there are real.

Then there is Arafat's health. Whether or not he has Parkinson's is not the issue; the issue is who will succeed him. The locals are already talking about a successor.

A source who is deeply involved with the Palestinian leadership says that a committee has been established "to determine" the method by which Arafat's successor will be chosen.

The Americans fear that just the fact that this discussion is taking place, limits the time for the Oslo process to yield results. They fear that trust in Arafat will weaken, and that the elements that will most benefit from his weakened position will be those who oppose the process, like Hamas. The Americans prefer Arafat, with all his problems, to an unknown.

The Israeli political situation also worries them. They are following Netanyahu's ongoing domestic problems with great interest, and fear that new elections will further slow down the process, and may even result in the real hawks winning.

The Americans want a solution now. They prefer a weak Netanyahu, who is subject to US pressures, than a weak Ehud Barak, who will need the support of the Right just to remain in power.

Indyk's complaints

At the beginning of the week, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs, Martin Indyk called cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and asked him to get David

Bar-Ilan off his back, saying that the prime minister's communications director was inciting the American press against him.

It all started with Clinton's seeming inability to find a date to meet Netanyahu, which Jerusalem believes was Indyk's idea, suggested as a way to pressure Netanyahu.

The reports that Netanyahu had ordered the embassy in Washington to stop seeking a meeting boomeranged, not just with the administration, but also with American Jews who, it must be remembered, are Americans first. They don't like anyone being rude to their president, even the prime minister of Israel.

But the interview Netanyahu gave to CNN, in which he said he felt humiliated and as if the administration was comparing him to Saddam Hussein, made a difference. US Jews don't want to see the prime minister of Israel humiliated either, and certainly don't accept any comparison of him to the Iraqi dictator.

Bar-Ilan took advantage of this sympathy, and suddenly, American newspapers printed a series of columns critical of the administration, written by top columnists like Charles Krauthammer and Abe Rosenthal. As noted, administration officials know that they only have as much maneuvering room with Netanyahu as American Jews will give them.

What is interesting, however, is that Bar-Ilan has never implicated Indyk publicly, though in a private conversation he may have slipped and mentioned his name. So what the Prime Minister's Office wants to know is, who is listening in on Bar-Ilan's phone when he is briefing American columnists.

Security advisers

On Monday evening, Bnot Pessia, the drag group, performed at a Mossad installation "somewhere in Israel." Mossad head Danny Yatom wasn't there. He's got more important things to

worry about than perhaps checking out men who dress as women for some mysterious assignment. He is fighting for his professional life. During the intermission, members of the audience talked about him. About possible successors. About how to climb out of the mess caused by the Mashaal Affair.

The request by the Chiechanover Committee to delay the appointment of Mati Harari as Netanyahu's military secretary until the committee releases its report indicates that it is relating with all seriousness to the decision-making procedures in the Prime Minister's Office.

This week I spoke with Azriel Nevo, a military secretary to four prime ministers, who for some reason was never called to testify before the committee.

He spoke forcefully about the need for a national security council to advise the prime minister, a body which has never been estab-

lished, despite repeated recommendations that this be done, made by numerous committees of inquiry since the Yom Kippur War. Nevo believes this council should be led by someone with a security orientation who is respected by all the branches of the security services, and consist of a small number of senior - but not too senior - officers: colonels and their equivalents in the other services who would be "borrowed" for two years and then returned to active service.

"This would prevent suspicions and unhealthy competition [between the services] and would encourage sharing of information," he says.

This would not replace the military secretary, he says. That person would be a member of the team, and would be the liaison to the prime minister. The team would serve the entire cabinet by presenting alternatives before major decisions are made.

Worthy of note

On Tuesday, Foreign Ministry officials discussed the possible visit here of Louis Farrakhan.

It seems that they've forgotten that Farrakhan is one of the biggest Jew-haters of modern times. Among other things, he has publicly admired Hitler and said that the Nazis did not finish their work.

True, Farrakhan has influence on millions of American blacks. But as far as we're concerned, it's a destructive influence. Those who supported granting him permission to come here argued that Israel must find a way to open a dialogue with him.

They should ask Edgar Bronfman, the last Jew to try to engage him in a dialogue. He has come to the conclusion that there is nothing to talk about. He admitted his mistake.

The State of Israel shouldn't make this same mistake.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARON

Ticking bomb

Newspaper attention was riveted this week on the conflict between the Histadrut and the Treasury over Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's speech about "exploding bombs."

"The vulgar and insulting statement has damaged the justified economic claims that the Finance Ministry has raised against the local authorities," stated Yediot Aharonot's Sever Plotzker. He said that the attack added fuel to flames which could easily have been extinguished.

Moshe Perl in Ma'ariv asserts that the attack has done wonders to help Histadrut Secretary-General Amir Peretz shed a "bad guy" reputation: "Finally he is seen as a victim and not an aggressor, a man on the defense and not an attacker."

"In essence, Neeman is seeking a conflict, asserts Yediot's Gidon Eshet, who claims that Neeman's aim "is to break the Histadrut and not achieve a compromise."

He maintains that Neeman has developed a hatred for organized labor.

Mashaal conclusions

The Knesset committee investigating the Khaled Mashaal Affair which recommended avoiding action against those involved, "is another indicator of MKs' beliefs that it is permissible to err during an operative action and those involved should not be prosecuted," writes Ma'ariv's Ofer Shelah.

According to Yediot's Ron Ben-Yishai, the committee's decision is likely to influence the Ciechanover Commission. If the

lazer is "lenient, [and calls] to refrain from judging the prime minister and the head of the Mossad - they have a legitimacy to do so."

Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid questions the conclusions of the subcommittee, and says they are "puzzling."

Endangered settlements

The newspapers pondered the future of West Bank settlements in light of the government's latest pullback proposals, and the differences between right and left-wing policies.

Ma'ariv's Hagai Segal claims that the Likud's final agreement map is almost identical to that of the Labor party. He adds that like Ehud Barak, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is prepared to abandon "the small settlements that stick in the throat of the holy final agreement."

He writes that "a year ago, [the settlers] brought him to power, mostly in the interest of preserving the settlements, but now [Netanyahu] is scheming to get along without them, courtesy of the safety net of the Left."

Meir Shiglit in Yediot holds that "Israel has no defense interests in Judea and Samaria; this is hard to swallow, but it's true." He adds that Infrastructure Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai "carry the defense interests [of this territory] in vain."

Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus refers to the Labor Party's covert cooperation with the Likud: "Whether because of innocence, noble-mindedness...or just plain stupidity, Labor has turned into Netanyahu's most credible support."

Advertisement for INTERNET POST CLASSIFIEDS, featuring a form for advertising and contact information for the Jerusalem Post.

Advertisement for BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV BEN-GURION DAY, 1997, featuring Professor Avishay Braverman and Lord Weidenfeld of Chelsea.

Fragmentary text from the left margin, including "The Jerusalem Post", "ment", "ons", "lies knew", "om victims", and "LIAR".

India braces for early elections

By HEMA SHUKLA

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — India's caretaker cabinet yesterday recommended that the president dissolve parliament in preparation for new elections to replace the government that fell last week.

This came after a right-wing party that had demanded it be allowed to form a new government as an alternative to early elections admitted it had been unable to muster support.

Bharatiya Janata leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee told reporters he had advised the president that "it appears that no one is in a position to form the government, so the best way out is to go the people for their verdict."

Vajpayee said President K.R. Narayanan agreed that it appeared no party or group is able to lead a government.

As the constitutional head of state, it is up to Narayanan to either ask a party or coalition to take over the government, or call new elections. Narayanan met with caretaker Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral yesterday evening, and his decision is expected soon.

The recommendation from the cabinet cleared any technical barriers to holding elections three years

ahead of schedule.

Gujral had made no recommendation when he resigned last Friday, wanting to leave Narayanan's options open. Some constitutional experts had questioned whether the president could call elections without the formal advice of the government.

Agriculture Minister Chaturanan Mishra announced the unanimous decision that parliament should be dissolved as he left a cabinet meeting. The decision followed calls from his ousted United Front government for new elections.

Election officials say it would take at least two months to organize balloting in the world's most populous democracy, with 600 million voters.

Narayanan has been weighing his choices since the 14-party United Front government resigned Friday. The United Front has served as caretaker government since then.

The United Front says elections are the only solution to the political impasse.

The Congress and Bharatiya Janata parties both wanted a chance to form a new government. But neither has a majority in the 545-member house, so would need partners to rule.

Berlusconi sentenced to 16 months

MILAN (Reuters) — An Italian court yesterday sentenced former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi to 16 months in jail for false accounting.

A judge said Berlusconi, who had previously paid 17 billion lire (\$9.8 million) in damages in the case, would not go to jail.

Berlusconi, prime minister for seven months in 1994, heads media, retail and insurance holding Fininvest and leads the opposition center-right Freedom Alliance. He will not have to serve his sentence because under Italian law sentences of under two years are rarely served.

It was the first time a conviction had been imposed on Berlusconi, who is currently facing three other separate trials on charges of establishing illegal slush funds, bribing tax inspectors and illegally channelling funds to politicians.

The false accounting charges were made in the so-called Medusa trial, in which Berlusconi and four associates were charged with falsifying accounts and embezzling funds when Fininvest bought the Medusa film business in 1988. Fininvest had denied the charges.

Fininvest executive Carlo Bernasconi was sentenced to 16 months in jail, but his sentence was suspended.



Silvio Berlusconi, who was sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment yesterday, speaks at a recent Freedom Alliance rally. (AP)

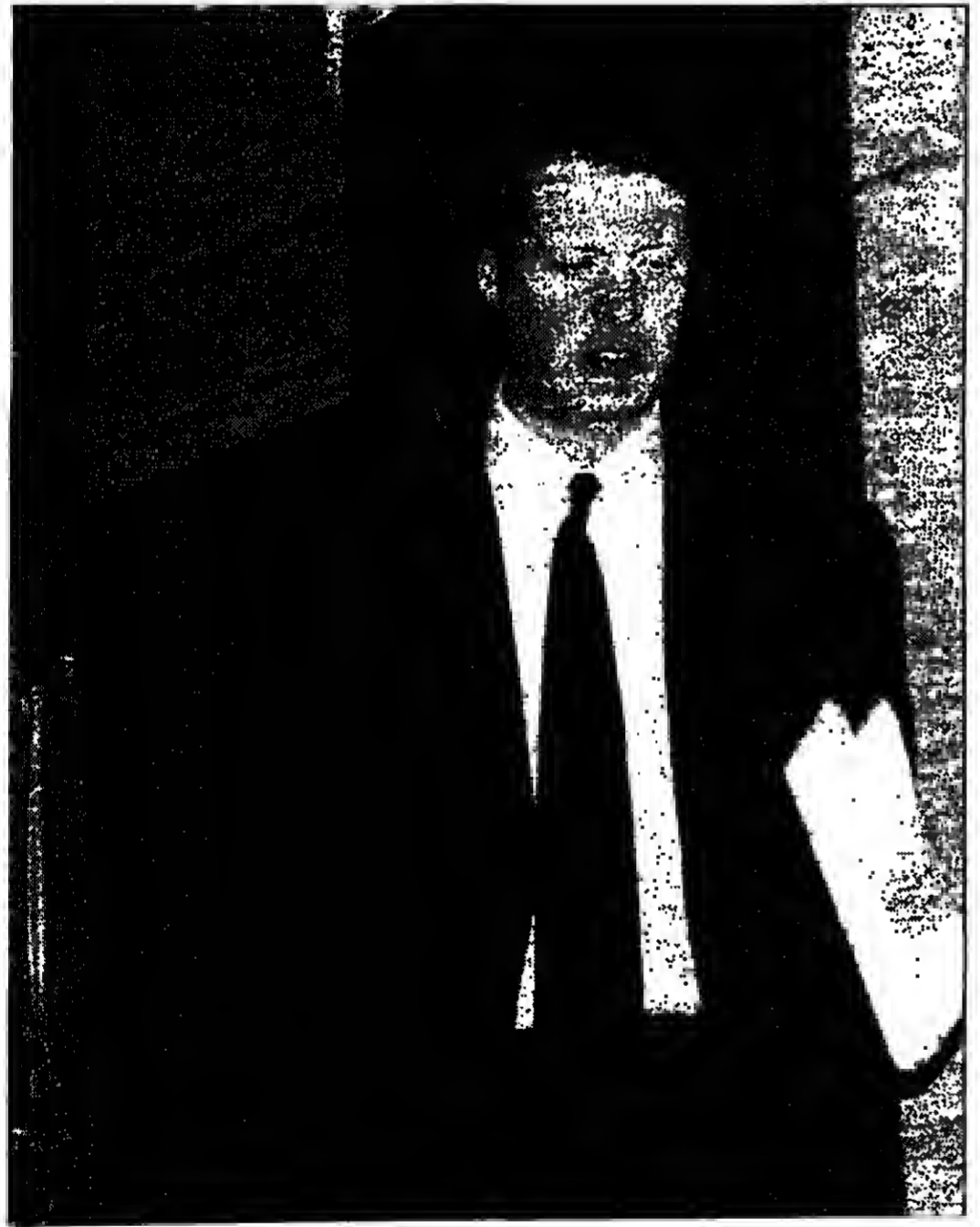
Three other Fininvest managers were found not guilty of false accounting.

Berlusconi also was fined 60m lire (\$35,000), but this was later reduced to 10m lire.

The prosecution had asked for Berlusconi to serve 20 months in jail, while his lawyer had sought an acquittal.

There was no immediate response from Berlusconi, who was in a meeting at his Arcore residence near Milan, a spokeswoman said. Berlusconi has denied the charges.

Earl Spencer gets divorce, ex-wife gets \$3m.



Earl Spencer leaves the Supreme Court in Cape Town, yesterday, on the third day of his divorce case. (AP)

CAPE TOWN (AP) — A judge granted Earl Spencer a divorce yesterday, ending his tumultuous eight-year marriage with a settlement worth more than £1.8 million (\$3m).

The divorce of the late Princess Diana's brother and former model Victoria Lockwood capped a series of embarrassing courtroom revelations.

Lawyers for the 32-year-old Lady Spencer alleged he was an adulterer who had 12 mistresses, starting soon after their marriage.

He maintained she is mentally unstable, unable to handle a large sum of money and would return to the alcohol abuse and eating disorders that have plagued her in the past.

The settlement, finalized yesterday, was reached Tuesday just before Lady Spencer, her father John, and the earl's former mistress Chantal Colpooy were due to testify against him.

In Cape Town High Court, Judge Ian Farlam asked Spencer if his marriage had broken down.

"It is so broken down, my Lord," a solemn-faced Spencer, 33, replied.

Farlam then confirmed that provision had been made for the couple's four children and granted the divorce. Spencer smiled broadly and shook hands with his lawyers.

Lady Spencer was not present, but her lawyer Jeremy Gauntlett offered no objections to the divorce. She had been seeking £3.75m.

The couple, already estranged, moved to Cape Town in 1995 and set up separate homes within a few streets of each other. Spencer said he left England to escape press intrusions.

After Diana died August 31 in a Paris car crash while fleeing photographers, Spencer accused the media of hounding her to death.

Egyptian militants: Luxor attackers acted alone

By BASSEM MROUE

HAEKSTEP, Egypt (AP) — Imprisoned leaders of the dominant Muslim extremist group in Egypt said yesterday that the militants who killed 58 tourists in Luxor last month acted independently.

Mustapha Sayed, a lawyer standing trial with 64 other suspected militants, told reporters here that "the group came from the mountains, and their contacts with the leadership had been cut off." The attack, which also took the lives of four Egyptians, was claimed by al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, or the Islamic Group.

The group has been blamed for much of the violence in a five-year campaign by Muslim extremists to replace Egypt's secular government with a strict Islamic regime.

The November 17 attack at the Temple of Hatshepsut outside

Luxor has brought Egypt's tourism industry to a halt. Tourism is one of the country's biggest foreign currency earners, bringing in some \$3 billion a year. The six gunmen were killed after the attack.

Sayed and the others are being tried in military court on charges of belonging to the outlawed Islamic Group, and conspiring to commit murder.

The trial continues today at Haekstep, a military base 25 kilometers north of Cairo.

Sayed spoke to reporters during a break in the trial from the iron cage that holds the defendants.

Asked if he condemned the attack in Luxor, Sayed said only that "Al-Gamaa rejects the killing of tourists," but that the group's goal was "to strike at the tourism industry."

He contended that although the Islamic Group claimed the attack in a fax to a Western news agency

in Cairo, the leadership did not give its approval.

The group's *Al-Murabitoun Bulletin* last week said "There is no excuse that calls for this random murder." The statement, though unsigned, has been attributed to Osama Rushdy, a group leader who lives abroad.

The statement also expressed "deep regret and sorrow over ... the slaying of this great number of innocent victims who have to (part) in the conflict between the Egyptian government and the Islamists."

Sayed said that "al-Gamaa was trying as much as possible" to contact members in hiding in the mountains in southern Egypt about the cease-fire call.

Sayed said he was speaking on behalf of six Islamic Group leaders jailed for anti-government activities.

In July, another defendant, Mohammed Amin Abdel-Halim,

read out a statement that called for a cease-fire in the group's fight against the government.

A similar call from the Islamic Group was issued just days after the Luxor attack.

The cease-fire calls have urged Muslim militants to end their attacks on police and government officials.

In exchange, the militants have called on Egypt to release detainees, break ties with Israel and allow the country to be governed by Islamic Sharia law.

They also want freedom for the Islamic Group's spiritual leader, Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, who is imprisoned in the United States for conspiracy to blow up New York monuments.

More than 1,200 people have died in attacks by the militants staged since 1992. Most victims have been police or extremists, but foreigners and Coptic Christians also have been killed.

BBC adjusts to age of competition

By JEFF DAESCHNER

LONDON (Reuters) — The British Broadcasting Corporation yesterday vowed to make itself more accountable to audiences as it strives to compete with commercial TV and radio broadcasters.

The BBC launched a new guide to its system of governance for viewers and listeners, aiming to dispel any lingering perceptions of it as a lofty public service broadcaster with little regard for popular feedback.

"It's a different and, I hope, increasingly strong and better relationship with its audience, which isn't simply measured by making the programs you like for your peers and knowing that people willy-nilly will watch and listen to them," BBC chairman Sir Christopher Bland told reporters.

The BBC, which is funded by a £91.50 TV license fee levied on British households, faces stiffer competition as digital TV services are

launched next year, multiplying the number of channels available to viewers.

The new guide, called "Governing Today's BBC — Broadcasting, the Public Interest, and Accountability" came after the government challenged the BBC to do more to show how its set-up protects the public interest.

As part of its new strategy, the BBC said it is considering bolder formalized "stock-taking" meetings with Culture Secretary Chris Smith once a year.

It also said it is beefing up its audience feedback shows by introducing *The BBC Listens*, which will combine audience research and advice from critics.

"I think it's increasingly, in the competitive age, necessary for the BBC to justify itself as providing a service to viewers and listeners as part of the license fee compact," Bland said.

"We have to review how well we're serving those audiences. Not just in dull competitive terms, which can be done by measuring the

numbers, but by looking at under-served portions of our audience — ethnic minorities and different parts of the United Kingdom."

Bland admitted that the BBC had been late in entering the round-the-clock TV news market, having only launched its BBC News 24 service in Britain last month.

"The BBC was late in the market for 24-hour news... I wish we'd done it 15 years earlier," he said, adding however that the BBC could offer news coverage that was distinctive from Sky News and CNN.

But he said the BBC would make sure that commercial pressures did not override its public service role.

"We can hopefully eliminate the danger of the commercial tail wagging the public service body of the dog," he said.

The new guide, the successor to "An Accountable BBC" published four years ago, is available by request and on the BBC website — www.bbc.co.uk/info/govbbc.

SYRIA

Continued from Page 1

The report said that the information could have influenced the incumbent government, as well as its immediate predecessors, in their respective assessments of Syria's diplomatic and military intentions.

However, Levy minimized its impact, stating that the concern evoked last August by Syria's troop movements in Lebanon "caused tension" but was far from being a "crisis," recalling that suggestions that IDF reservists should be mobilized at the time were rejected from the outset.

In a follow-up report, Channel 1 political correspondent Dan Semama speculated that there may be a "negative hero" in this affair, but did not elaborate.

On the other hand, he contended that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is "the positive hero" because he kept the military situation under control by relaying Israel's assurances to Syria, through then-US ambassador Martin Indyk and US peace envoy Dennis Ross, that his trip to the Mt. Hermon surveillance post was not a prelude to a military operation.

Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that evaluations haven't changed following the disclosure.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said

that damage has been done to the country, but that it is too early to tell how much.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said that there's no danger as a result of the mishap. "As a someone who has read reports from this source, [reports] that give information about chances of peace or war are never based on one source," he said.

Meanwhile, the Mossad is now fully operational in London after a 10-year break, according to the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*.

The most important branch of the Mossad operates in Britain under the code name "Tevet," and is assigned to cooperate with foreign intelligence services, it said.

Other Mossad divisions active in Britain are named as "Tzomet," in charge of recruiting agents, and "Caesarea," the main operations branch.

The Mossad's principal function in Britain, according to the newsletter, is to recruit Arab agents. Britain, favored by many Arabs for army and university training, has one of the largest Arab communities outside the Arab world. There are, it notes, more Arabs in Britain than in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel combined.

The Mossad was expelled by former prime minister Margaret Thatcher almost 10 years ago, after three cases in which it allegedly broke its agreement with the British government.

The first involved the kidnapping of former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu; the second the alleged use of a forged British passport; and the third, described as "the most embarrassing," involved an agent who infiltrated a Palestinian organization and discovered that his fellow members were about to kill an Arab journalist. The agent immediately told his controller, but the information was not passed on to Britain's MI5 security service and the journalist was shot a few days later.

Only then did the Mossad tell MI5 of a warehouse where the murder weapon could be found. Using this information, police found the weapon and arrested some Palestinians, including the Mossad agent, who told MI5 he had warned his controller of what was about to happen.

Thatcher ordered the immediate closure of the Mossad station in London and several Israeli "diplomats" were expelled the next day. Since then, the newsletter quotes Israeli sources as saying that MI5 and the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) have argued in favor of letting the Mossad return, as "the British and Israeli agencies are said to hold each other in high regard... Israeli sources say the Mossad admires British spies, the SIS's research department, and its coverage of the Arab world, as well as its skill in recruiting."

Foreign Report quotes Israeli sources as saying the main targets for the Mossad in Britain are fore-

ARABS

Continued from Page 1

Those polled were asked who they thought would best promote the peace process — Barak or Netanyahu, neither, or both to the same extent? Over 52% said Barak and only 3% said Netanyahu, with most of the rest undecided.

On a question regarding the state of the Arab parties, more than 82% said they would prefer a united Arab list to separate parties.

Only 2.5%, however, thought there is a very good chance of this happening, with 40% rating the prospects as moderate to fairly

good. Over 53% said they thought the chances of the parties agreeing to forging a single Arab list are poor to non-existent.

The findings showed interviewees equally divided over the question of which parties contributed most to realizing the aspirations of Israeli Arabs and Druze. Hadash received 20%, the Arab Democratic Party 17%, Labor 16%, and Meretz 15%.

The survey revealed growing support for both the pragmatic and the more radical factions of the fundamentalist Islamic Movement.

Around 12% said they supported the more moderate stream led by Sheikh Abdullah Nimr Darweesh, and 20% supported the one headed

by Umm el-Fahm Mayor Sheikh Raed Salah, while 16% backed both. A majority of 52%, however, said they supported neither.

The increased support for Islamic movements in general was reflected in the response to a question about observance of religious commandments. Over 37% said they observe to a large extent, compared to 35% in 1995, while 27% replied that to a moderate extent, compared to nearly 17% two years ago, and 26% said they observe to a small extent, compared to 20% in 1995.

Just under 10% said they did not observe religious commandments at all — compared to 28% in 1995.

4, 1997 The Jerusalem Post

resignation

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Global warming message

Japanese university student Naganori Mimachi, a member of the Japan Acid Rain Monitoring Network, dressed as an imaginary river imp called 'Kappa,' checks raindrops to measure air pollution in front of the international conference center in Kyoto yesterday. More than 1,500 delegates from 150 countries are gathered for a 10-day conference on global warming, where the US and other industrial powers are engaged in disputes with developing countries over how to distribute the burden of reducing global energy consumption. (AP)

Coping with E-trade

Faced with an increasingly bustling info-highway, governments are uncomfortable with the Net's potential to bypass tax and content laws

By RICHARD MELVILLE

NEW YORK — It already delivers more mail than the US Post Office, can deliver news to more homes than any daily paper and is emerging as the shopping center of the next century, but those accomplishments are dwarfed by what many see as the Internet's role in the future global economy. Like automobiles, broadcast, telephony and other globe-shrinking leaps that preceded it, the Internet is expected to launch an economic quantum shift.

World Wide Web-based commerce is expected to explode to \$220 billion by 2001, almost one percent of the global economy, according to research firm International Data Corp (IDC). That would be more than 20 times the \$10.6 billion forecast for this year and approach 100 times 1996 levels.

By then, electronic wallets will be common and the switch from paper to digital cash well underway. Companies will open access to sensitive internal data over secure networks to partners, making possible constant, real-time exchange with suppliers and distributors.

Web phones and faxes will bypass more costly telecommunications.

Of course, all the basic technologies involved are already available, which is why analysts say the age of Internet pioneers is over and late adopting companies — and countries — are now at risk of being left far behind.

"We are at the beginning of a high-stakes game of 'Internet leapfrog' in which regions that have a high percentage of aggressive Internet users will be positioned to leap ahead of others in production and profitability growth," IDC predicted.

Initially, the Web served as little more than a digital shopping mall, hosting hundreds if not thousands of makeshift digital storefronts.

Lately, that model has given way to a new reality — the Web as a borderless economy that threatens to undermine governments' ability to supervise, regulate or tax commerce.

In the new global order of consumerism, "brand loyalty" has given way to "mind share," the critical edge of being first name to mind in a medium where advertising and marketing are in their infancy.

As the Web changes commerce, commerce in the form of big business is also bringing fundamental change to the Web. This year, corporate dollar spent in Web commerce will exceed those spent by the online shopper for the first time.

"We see business-to-business as the dominant force going forward," said John Gantz, senior vice president at IDC. "You're already seeing cases like US West, which is trading dialtone with resellers over the Web." Commercial adoption of the Web by big business is at the heart of the raging browser war between Netscape Communications Corp and Microsoft Corp.

The thought is, control of the desktop browser market will act as a foothold for lucrative sales of software to companies looking to open their purchasing and sales teams, databases and other areas to the Web.

There are still major obstacles. Many governments are extremely uncomfortable with the Internet's potential to bypass laws on content, let alone encryption and taxation.

Also, personal computer use and telephone liberalization need to broaden in Europe for the Net to flourish, although some expect the gap to close rapidly, driven by the temptation of lower prices for consumer goods in a heavily taxed part of the world, and the chance for business to cut costs.

"There are a lot of things that are very expensive here in Europe that can be bought on the Net for dramatically less, even after shipping costs," Andersen Consulting's "E-commerce expert" Glover Ferguson

said. "Politicians are also now anxious to speed this along. But some of the more protected economies like France have some soul-searching to do," Ferguson said.

Current trends indicate the US will keep its lead for at least several years, both in consumer and corporate activity.

In a reversal, enthusiastic adoption is expected to push the Asia/Pacific region ahead of Europe. Electronic commerce has established a foothold in developed markets like Hong Kong and Japan but is a future dream in other Asian countries due to low telephone line and personal computer penetration.

Asian giants China, India and emerging economies like Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Burma all have insufficient telecommunications infrastructure.

Security is still a main issue both at the corporate and inter-governmental level and standards have yet to be broadly implemented. In this area and others, financial companies have taken an important lead.

Within the US, banks have lent an important image of stability to the Web, delivering feature-rich (albeit cash poor) automatic teller machines right into people's homes.

A booming stock market has also propelled brokerages to the Web, where the high-speed, high-tech image plays well with the demographics of an investment-obsessed Yuppie class.

Now, top-tier firms like Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette are fighting for e-market share with Web powerhouses like Charles Schwab Corp.

Add to the mix deep-discount outfits like E*Trade Group Inc, which relies almost entirely on the Web for business, and even deeper-discount newcomers and the result is a full-fledged price war emblematic of a mature market. For sheer numbers, high-tech companies still dominate. Dell Computer Corp's Web

sales are running at a \$1 billion per year clip and a large slice of the remaining trade revolves around technology.

"If you add what Dell and Cisco (Systems Inc) claim to be doing over the Web, which in Cisco's case is probably all business to business, its about \$2.5-\$3 billion themselves," IDC's Gantz said.

For the model to reach critical mass, many more companies will have to embrace it. When that occurs, experts say, opportunities will abound to link corporate data on inventory and production out-looks to suppliers' and resellers' systems, for example, allowing far more efficient trade than is possible today.

On the consumer side, the Internet's corner store feel is giving way as well-known names gentrify the neighborhood.

Book sales are one of the Web's natural fit products, because they take advantage of an Internet strength, the ability to let customers sift through vast information with little effort and quickly place orders based on the results.

That feature is part of a shift in other likely "killer categories" like music and travel services onto the Web.

Amazon.com Inc's early use of that advantage has already pushed the giants in book retailing into the arena for defensive purposes, even though Amazon's \$81.7 million in sales through nine months amounts to two weeks of work at Barnes & Noble Inc.

Those are examples of contemporary retailing taken online.

The future, of course, will mean a change in practice, and possibly the rise of the highly specialized retail outlet.

"The Internet is ideal for micro-categories, what we call 'gnat-gory' killers," Goldman Sachs analyst David Bolotsky argued in a report on Internet retailing. "In other words, the Internet will enable retailers to target market much narrower customer and product segments." (Reuters)

book department

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Pirates plunder at will in Brazil

LATIN AMERICA

RIO DE JANEIRO — Saber-rattling pirates flying the skull and crossbones as they plunder their way across the seven seas may be a thing of the past but the act of piracy has far from died out in the coastal waters of Brazil.

Only last month, a gang of modern-day pirates seized control of a ferry off the coast of Sao Paulo state, shot their way into an armored car and escaped in a speedboat with more than \$450,000. But usually they operate less dramatically, arriving in the dead of night on launches equipped with scuba gear and submachine guns to raid cargo ships anchored in port.

Among international shipping and maritime organizations, Brazil has already been branded as a pirates' den, with the ports of Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Salvador suffering the largest number of pirate attacks.

"There is a high frequency of attacks in comparison with other countries," said consultant Thomas Timken with the Baltic International Maritime Council (BIMCO) in Denmark, the world's leading private association of shipowners and shipping firms.

"In terms of attacks within port areas, Brazil has the worst record in the world." Although Southeast Asia has the highest incidence of piracy in the world, it has fewer cases of assaults in port areas and

more attacks on the high seas than Brazil. Statistics compiled by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) show Brazil ranks third in incidents of piracy around the world with 11 assaults on cargo vessels between January and September of this year.

There were 34 attacks in Indonesia and 13 in the Philippines over the same period, the IMB said.

The statistics are unreliable, however, as Brazilian police have already registered more attacks against ships than those reported to the IMB. There have been nine

attacks in the port of Santos and eight in the port of Rio de Janeiro alone over that period, according to Federal Police statistics.

Many robberies, whether in Brazil or elsewhere, are not reported because the cost of keeping a ship docked long enough for investigations would cost a fortune in harbor fees. "Often ship commanders don't report assaults," Federal Police spokesman Aroldo Mendonca said in Rio. "They're not going to park their ships in port and lose a lot of time and money."

"Why do the robbers go to such lengths and plan their crime with such sophistication if often only to steal radios, televisions or typewriters?" asked Milton Tito, director of the Rio de Janeiro Sindicato de Shipping Agencies (Sindiarjo). "It's quite possible that drugs and arms are involved." Federal Police are investigating such links but to date no such connection could be firmly established. BIMCO and the IMB say there is no evidence to support a link of specific cargo and often specific containers is still of concern.

"Somewhere along the line the pirates are getting inside information," Timken said. "Our main concerns are ship crews and the negative effect this will have on trade."

Luciano Oliveira da Silva, general manager of shipping firm Expresso Mercantil in Rio.

BIMCO has appealed to the Brazilian government several times over the last few years to increase port security but it says it has not seen any tangible improvements so far, while the degree of violence during pirate attacks is escalating.

"What is lacking in Brazil is a proper coast guard. There is no policing whatsoever in Brazil's ports. The federal police and the port authorities have no staff, no boats, no equipment and no training to ensure security," da Silva said. (Reuters)

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Self-interest

Weekender

A spin down memory lane

A slew of classic-rock reissues makes music stores seem like time machines

By CHARLES SOLOMON

Is this the 1960s, the '70s or the '90s? Give me the new releases by Led Zeppelin, the Doors, Simon and Garfunkel, the Beach Boys, Cream, the Jimi Hendrix Experience, Elvis Presley, James Taylor, Fleetwood Mac and others you would be forgiven for thinking that the rock world is in a time warp.

Record companies are delving deeper and deeper into their tape vaults to come up with unused and rare material. They are wringing every last drop out of their catalogs, recycling and reissuing albums which have been renas-

seriously rival the Beatles for sheer brilliance and inventiveness was the Beach Boys. Thirty years after recording their landmark album *Pet Sounds*, the four-CD *Pet Sounds Sessions* provides a behind-the-scenes look. Many fans and critics compared it to the Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. George Martin, the Beatles' longtime producer, said, "Pepper was an attempt to equal *Pet Sounds*."



Eric Clapton's band Cream took pop to places it had never been.

Experience (American, but with a British band) to a receptive if unsuspecting US audience. Bay Area bands Jefferson Airplane and Big Brother & the Holding Company, fronted by singer Janis Joplin, and soul legend Otis Redding wowed the crowds with their sets, as did the Mamas and the Papas, Simon and Garfunkel, Buffalo Springfield and star master Ravi Shankar. It was the seminal counterculture event, but most importantly, it drew talent scout who signed performers to major record labels. Simon and Garfunkel's performances did not make it onto the Monterey Pop discs, but their talents are showcased on a new four-CD retrospective, *Old Friends*. The title is slightly misleading, as they were anything but friends, but their personality clashes did not prevent them from creating some of popular music's most enduring songs.



Eric Clapton's band Cream took pop to places it had never been.

studio and two live albums. Bill Levinson, who produced the award-winning Eric Clapton retrospective, *Crossroads*, says that there was very little unused material to draw from, and what didn't make the original albums was of inferior quality. He was hoping to include live sessions from the BBC archives, but because of legal delays, those will be released at a later date. However, a few unreleased tracks did make it onto the set, like an alternate take of "Loddy Mama" and 1967 demos.

One thing is clear: the music has not dated. This is an essential collection containing some of the most inventive and exciting rock ever played. At the same time that Cream was stunning audiences on both sides of the Atlantic, a young African-American guitarist was brought to England by his British manager to form another trio, the Jimi Hendrix Experience. Now, 27 years after his death, Hendrix — the most influential guitarist of his generation — is enjoying a resurgence of popularity with the release of *South Saturn Delta*.

The new Universal Records label, in conjunction with the Hendrix family, has unearthed 15 rare or previously unreleased tracks spanning his career. The album contains the hard-to-find "Pali Gap" and previously unreleased versions of "Midnight Lightning" and "STP/LSD," the ballad "Sweet Angel" and an alternative take of "All Along The Watchtower." This is the seventh Hendrix album to enter the *Billboard* charts in the 1990s, a testament to his enduring popularity and influence.



'Hourglass' is James Taylor's first disc of new material in six years.

It is also 27 years since the breakup of the Beatles, and Paul McCartney, 55, has conquered the US charts again. But this time it's out the pop charts he's topping, but the classical charts. *Standing*

Behind the 8-ball

By AMY KLEIN

Thoughts of billiards, pool or snooker bring to mind a scene of sultry, smoky rooms filled with high stakes, leather jackets, and maybe a blonde moll with one long, stockings leg languidly kicked out behind her as she leans on the table arching to sink the eight ball, for the game.



Pot shot: VSP Billiard in Jerusalem's Talpilot

For a more authentic, less dingy ambience, try VSP Billiard in the Talpilot mall. Open from 10 a.m. to 4 a.m. (except Shabbat), they have those low-hanging, soft yellow lights whose glow, when bouncing off the green felt tables, evokes a slow Ella Fitzgerald tune and men in suits. They aren't, though. The men — who, in the week hours are the majority — could be a mix of hennepedeked husbands, boyfriends in a row with their girls, or single guys who just can't find Ms. Right. Well, here is where they come — to smoke, shoot some pool for NIS 35 per hour (NIS 25 before 6 p.m.), and play the video games and the poker machines (for tokens only). In a place like this, one expects to find a secret panel that opens onto a high-stakes poker game for VIPs — by invitation only.

Opera on my mind

Mezzo-soprano Hadar Halevi talks about her favorite operas

Israeli mezzo-soprano Hadar Halevi is slowly but surely conquering the major opera stages of the world. The young, seasonally beautiful Halevi, whose warm caressing voice matches her sensuality, recently performed the title role in *Carmen* in Koblenz, Germany, where her alluring image adorned the posters of the production all over the city.

- 1. Carmen (Bizet) "Because of the character. Each number in this opera is more beautiful than the other and you can hum them all on your way back home. This is a beautiful, interesting and communicative opera. It's great to sing the free-spirited gypsy Carmen. It's the most fun role to do, full of theater, acting and dance, aside from the great music. There is nothing like this opera."
- 2. The Barber of Seville (Rossini) "Because of the smile. There is a lot of joie de vivre in this opera. You walk on stage with a smile and you end the evening with the same smile. Rossini is not a difficult part to sing, and it's very fulfilling."
- 3. La traviata and Otello (Verdi) "Because of the Italian soul. I went into opera to live these wonderful legends of a princess waiting for her prince charming to sweep her up and ride with him to his palace. This is the feeling these operas give me. When I hear La traviata I cry, not just because of the story but because I want to sing the title role and cannot — it is written for a soprano. The same goes for Desdemona in Otello. These are true Italian operas; they are written from the soul and this is where you feel them. They are amazing operas."

Unlike our prime minister, the US secretary of state ought to be taken their word

AFTER HOURS

Hot tip

By KAREN SULKIS

Tel Aviv

Back when Dana International was in short pants, there was Dr. Frankenfurter. Chicago Pizza Pie Factory's Friday afternoon film series presents the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. So, why don't you come up to the lab and... see what's on the slab, 'cause NIS 55 buys you the screening and unlimited pizza and beer. I bet you're thrilled with anticipation for an afternoon that will be well spent. Tomorrow at 2 p.m. 63 Hayarkon. Reservations suggested. Call 517-7505.

The Green Group is hosting a swinging bash tonight at 10 at Club Indigo, Rehov Namal at the corner of Hayarkon. NIS 30 covers admission, dancing and brews. Call 604-3307.

Kim Western sings love songs. Tonight at 10 at Apropro Tzahala. Call 648-7098.

In depicting just one day at a dacha in 1936, Nikita Mikhalkov's foreign-language Oscar-winning *Burnt by the Sun* conveys more information than whole semesters of university Sovietology courses. This lustrous jewel of a film (which includes English subtitled screens tonight at 8:30 at the Cinematheque. Call 691-7181.

Jerusalem

Conductor Eli Freud leads the Jerusalem Chamber Orchestra in selections by Byrd, Biber, Soler, Bacn, Haydn and Beethoven. In the Notre Dame Center. Tonight at 8:30.

Joseph Plus One plays something called ethnic jazz. Tonight at Habana, 4 Yad Harutzim. Call 679-9922.

Points Beyond

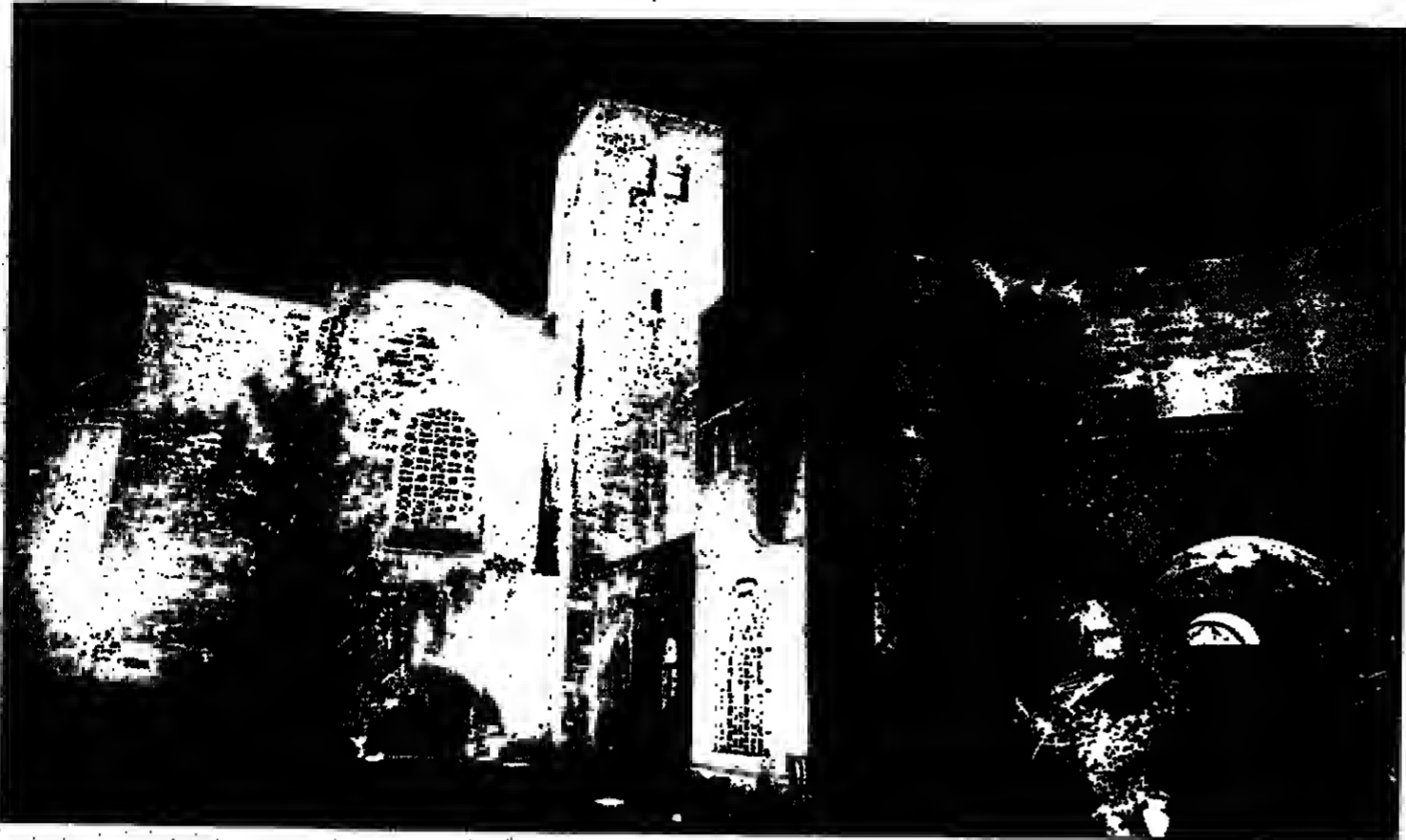
The Ronnie Peterloo Blues Band performs tonight at 10. Khan Amirey Hagailil. Call (06) 698-9815.

Television

Soccer fans rejoice! Today the Eurosport channel is devoting the entire day to soccer, to mark the draw for the World Cup finals. The draw will take place in Marseilles, starting at 8 p.m. our time, and will be preceded by The Match of History between Europe and the Rest of the World. The match, starting at 5:30 (and repeated at 10), will feature some of the game's greatest players, including Peter Schmeichel, Frank de Boer and Paolo Maldini on the Europe side. The Rest of the World team will be represented by the likes of the Brazilian Ronaldo and the Argentinian Gabriel Batistuta. Other features of the day include *World Cup Legends* specials on Germany, Brazil and Romania, as well as the Best of the '94 World Cup in the US.

Day Tripper

By Haim Shapiro



St Andrew's Church of Scotland was erected after World War I, but its new nighttime illumination creates the illusion of a centuries-old building. (Tav-Or)

★ ★ ★ Light up your nights ★ ★ ★

It wasn't that long ago when anyone who spoke about Jerusalem nightlife was joking. The only evening activity in those days was a late-night Talmud session, or the occasional midnight mass.

Although many young people continue to moan that there is nothing to do in Jerusalem, the city is now teeming with pubs and discotheques which are jammed to the gills on weekends.

But if dancing and/or drinking are not your idea of unwinding, try gazing at the city's newly lit historical sites. This week, the municipality and the East Jerusalem Development Corporation have illuminated nine more landmarks,

providing residents and visitors with a new perspective on familiar sites.

About a year-and-a-half ago the walls of the Old City were illuminated. I am particularly pleased with the effects of the Citadel (commonly and mistakenly known as the Tower of David), where each detail seems to have been considered in the lighting plan. I am less happy with the effects at the Damascus Gate, where lights in each of the windows and openings seems to create a sort of Walt Disney effect.

This week's illumination includes St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, west of the Old City wall. The building, especially with

nighttime lighting, seems to be rooted in the centuries, even though it was only built after World War I. Mishkenot Sha'ananim is also attractive.

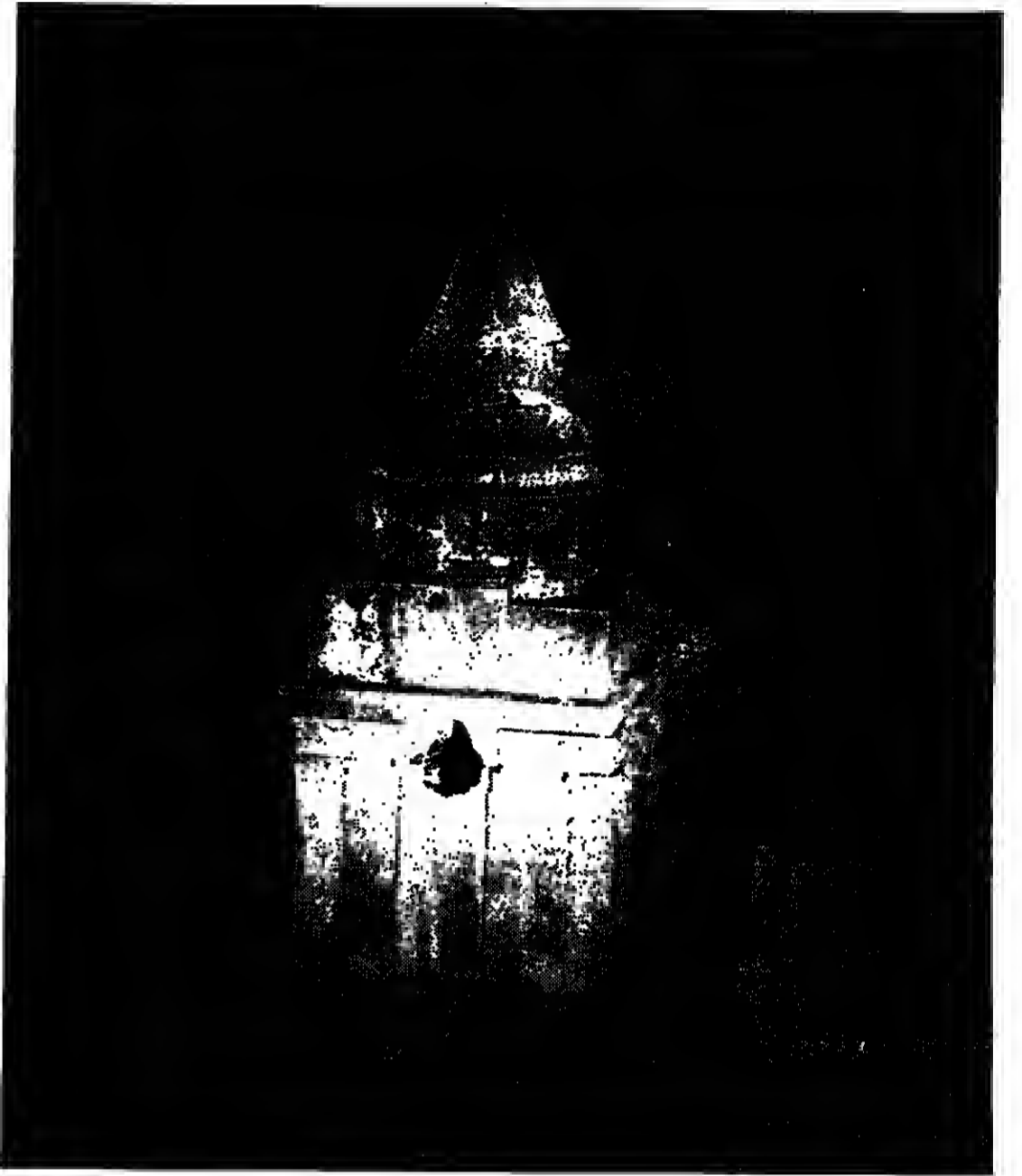
But for the real treasures, you have to go to the eastern side of the Old City. Park your car and walk along the newly built promenade. From here, Absalom's Pillar and the surrounding tombs are truly spectacular, although the graceful onion domes of the Russian Orthodox Convent of Mary Magdalene and the rather garish facade of the Roman Catholic Church of All Nations do compete for attention.

My favorite site from this spot is the Jewish cemetery on the Mt. of

Olives, which is so effectively lit you hardly realize there is any illumination. The whole area is washed with a pale glow resembling moonlight, creating a surreal, almost mystical feeling. The fact that black-clad haredim occasionally hold nighttime funerals or memorial gatherings here only adds to the effect.

Municipal officials said that the sites are to remain illuminated until 1 a.m. this week; however, they appeared uncertain as to whether their budget would allow them to maintain this schedule. If you want to ensure that you can see the landmarks, it would be best to visit them before midnight.

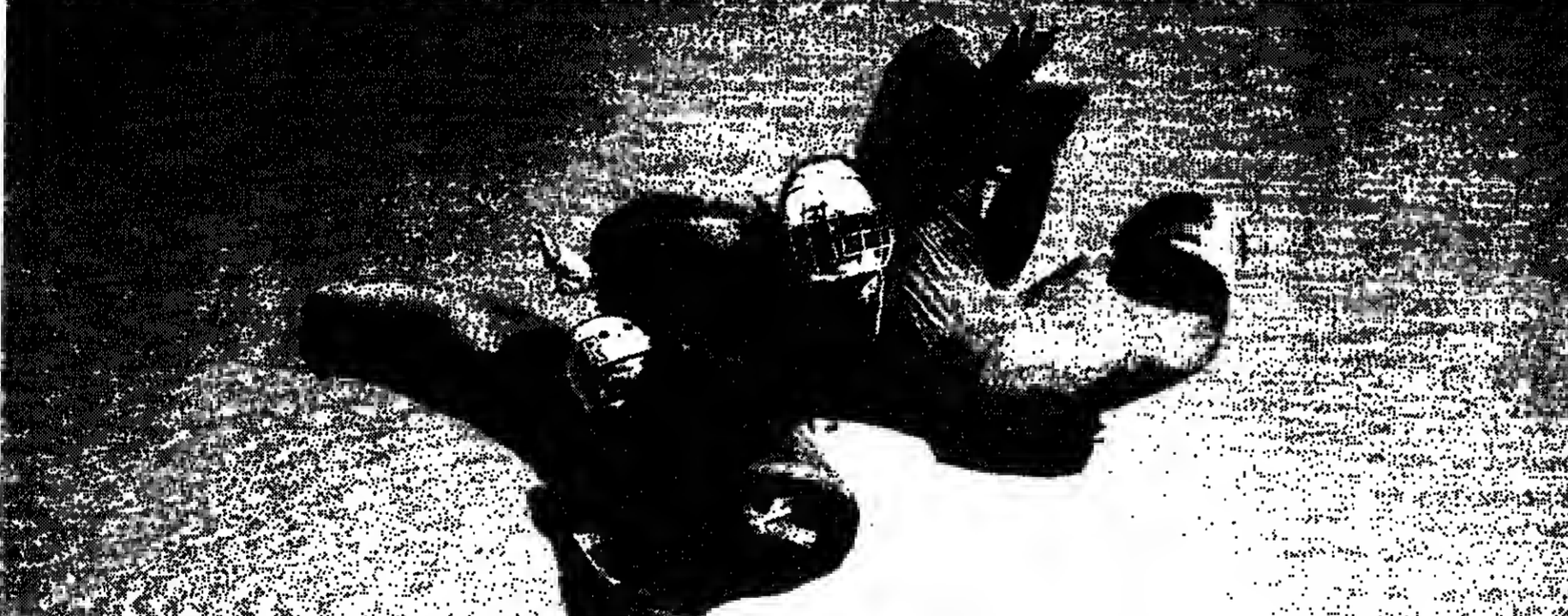
Weekender Travel



To fully appreciate the new illumination project, park your car on the eastern side of the Old City and walk along the recently constructed promenade. From here, enjoy spectacular views such as this one of Absalom's Pillar and surrounding tombs. (Tav-Or)

On a Limb

Look Ma, No hands!



By AMY KLEIN

There are the first-degree crazy people who jump out of planes. Second-degree crazy people just want to feel like they're doing it.

If you are of the latter group, you should go to the Airodium in Eilat and try a sport called "wind tunnel" flying, which actually consists of a giant fan blowing you up in the air. As silly as it sounds, it looks even more ridiculous. You don a loose, brightly-colored Teflon suit, which helps you stay aloft by gathering air and makes you look like a neon marshmallow man.

You lie down in the center of a net, face down, stare at this gargantuan fan and feel like you're in an episode of *Borman*, about to be lowered into the "vat of doom."

Then they turn the fan on. Your body arches and parallel to the ground, you slowly begin to rise, two, three meters above the ground and - WHOOSH!

You're out of the wind tunnel, falling. You pull your knees, arms and chin to your chest, fetal position, and land on the puffy cushion that surrounds the net on all sides.

You get up, and this time, instead of lying over the wind tunnel waiting for it to lift you, you dive over it, catch the air, and "fly." It's not flying exactly, nor is it

falling, because you are lifted and suspended by the air blowing at around 200 km/h. Imagine that you are riding a whale's jet stream, except instead of water, it's air. And it's great fun.

For NIS 135, you get 30 minutes of instruction - a video, a live demonstration of the flying position and practice crash landings - and 10 minutes in the Airodium. For NIS 640, you get a day in the Airodium - six flights and instruction on how to control the air and fly "solo."

The Airodium is called a "free-fall" simulator; skydivers and potential skydivers can practice in a controlled environment in conditions similar to those during a skydive. Eilat's Airodium is one of four around the world being used to teach skydiving. The Ritter family, owner of the Airodium, is also opening a new skydiving school - Skydiving Red Sea - 20 minutes north of Eilat.

Potential and real skydivers can learn to do tricks such as spins and turns, as well as climb up to 40 feet in the air. First-time flyers usually make it up to 10 feet, falling down in between tries. The more you expand your body by spreading your arms and legs, the more you take in and the higher you fly.

Can you be blown out of the Airodium - splat - onto the Jordanian mountains or Israeli

hotels nearby?

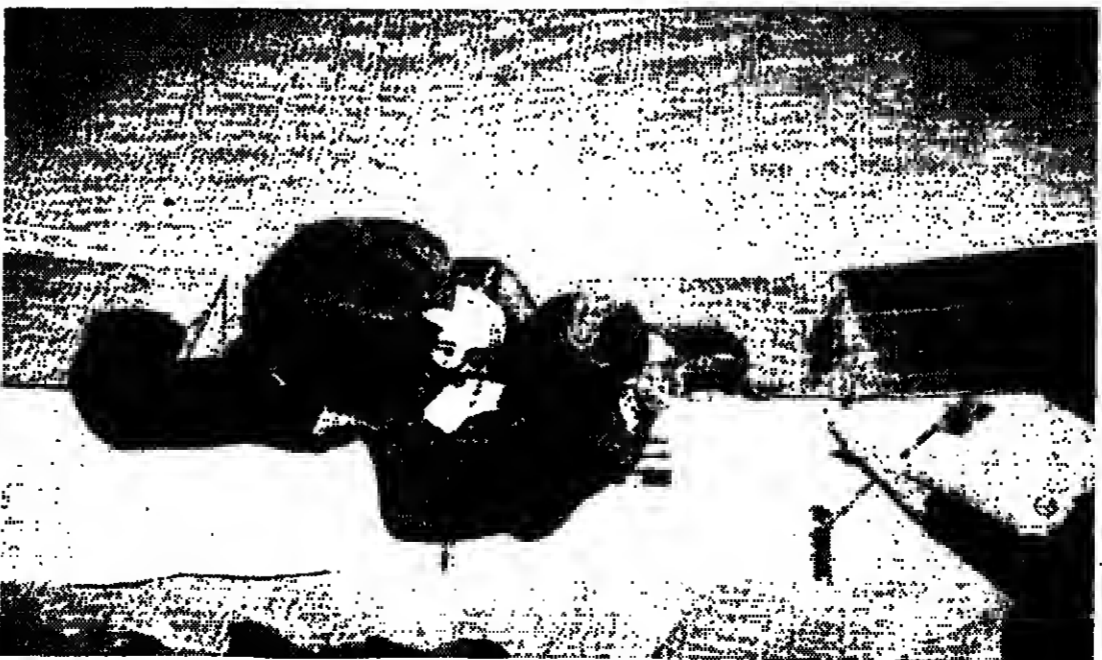
Impossible for one reason, explains 27-year-old instructor Roy Ritter: gravity. You fly only as high as the fan blows, and if you are out of the air stream's range you fall. The only injuries might be a sprained ankle or a dis-

located shoulder, the result of a bad landing - one probably not performed in the "crash landing" position they teach you.

Those are the risks. The gains are a few minutes of great fun; the feeling you had when you were a little kid and you jumped like crazy on your

parents' bed till the springs broke, tumbling in the air like popcorn.

But more than that, after your flight in the Airodium, what you might discover is that you're crazy in the first degree rather than the second, and that now what you really want to do is jump out of a plane.



Spread your wings: When they turn the gargantuan fan on, your body arches and you slowly begin to rise - two, three meters from the ground.

4 MORE ONE-DAY TRIPS

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Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places and hear interesting and informative explanations from expert guides.

Space is limited so book early and avoid disappointment.

Monday Dec. 8 MEET THE MEDIA
"Power without responsibility." We'll find out whether Stanley Baldwin's accusation is correct when we meet them all - Moshe Fogel, the Government Press Officer, Conny Munn of the Foreign Press Association and visit The Jerusalem Post, Ma'ariv, Galei Zahal and the TV studios. A full day of enlightenment with time for questions and maybe answers. Not to be missed. NIS 210 including lunch. Tour escort: Pia Rothstein

Monday Dec. 15 "IN DEPTH" IN HAIFA
Israel's power-house city is more than that as we'll show you. We'll visit the Pisan Gardens at the Bahai Temple, the loveliest in the country, then the Templars area on the Carmel, settled in 1887, Beit Hagefen, the Jewish-Arab cultural center and the Technion, founded in 1924. We'll visit M.I.M., Israel's largest industrial park, home to over 50 hi-tech companies. We'll see Haifa port and harbor and sail in Haifa Bay, visit Stella Maris, the cave of Elijah, the Carmelite Monastery and much more. NIS 230 including lunch. Tour guide: Lior Shorer

Sunday Dec. 21 DISCOVER THE GREEN LINE
For many it's just a line on the map, but in the not too distant future it will be the main cause of confrontation. Come and speak to "green line residents" in Hashmonaim, Kiriat Sefar, Lapid, Maccabim, Modi'in, and Neve Shalom. If you are interested in Israel's future then don't miss this tour. NIS 210 including lunch. Tour guide: Historian Avi Ben-Hur

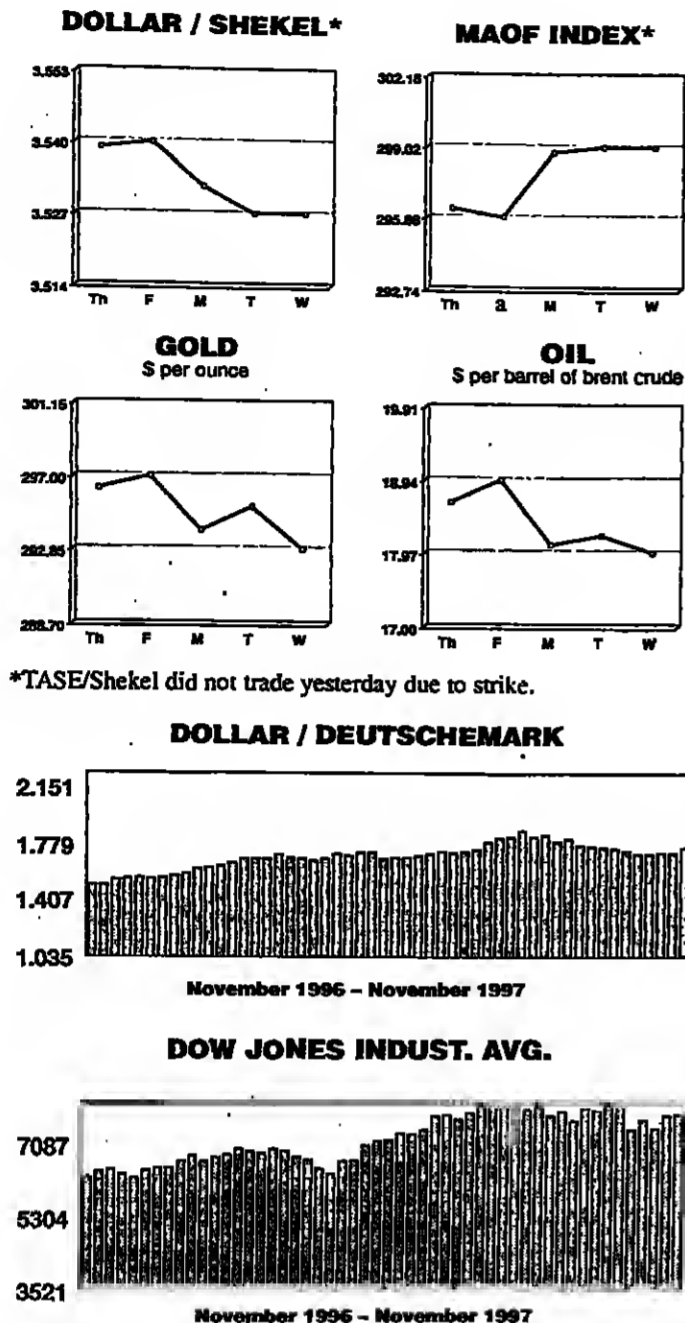
Sunday Jan. 11 RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN
Thousands of years of history - Greek, Roman, pagan, Jewish - now revealed for all to see. Theaters, temples, bath-houses, markets, frescoes, houses of ill-repute. All the beauty and cruelty that paganism offered. Even if you've been before, come again, because so much more has now been revealed, including the "Mona Lisa," in one of the world's most successful digs. NIS 200 including lunch. Tour guide: Gabi Mazor Head of Archeological Authority, Bek Shean.

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% discount when you book all four trips. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information: SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074. Tel. 02-566-6231 (9-30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

MARKETS

in brief



Diamond exports increase 2%

Net polished diamond exports increased 2% to \$385 million last month, compared to November last year. The industry and Trade Ministry announced this week. The total for the first 11 months reached \$3,908 billion, a 4% increase. There was a 12% decline in raw diamond exports since January, to \$856m.

Proposal would force banks to reveal charges

A draft amendment to the Banking Law, proposed by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor), yesterday won the support of the Ministerial Committee on Legislation. The amendment would require banks to send customers a quarterly report, written in lay terms and explaining what was charged for those three months and what charges should be expected in the coming quarter. The committee, chaired by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, said it hoped this measure would make the banks more competitive, while helping customers find out what they are paying for.

Multinationals step up Karmi preparations

Siemens has advised the Palestinian Authority of its willingness to set up a factory in the Karmi Industrial Park in Gaza, *Globes* reported last night. Negotiations with multi-national companies, including Peugeot and Volkswagen, to set up factories in the park are also at an advanced stage. The negotiations are being conducted by the Peres Peace Center. Delta Galil CEO Dov Lautman is examining setting up a factory in the park, for export to the Marks & Spencer chain. He said that the Palestinians' terms make the park very competitive, even compared to joint ventures in Jordan or Egypt.

Frenkel makes one day trip to Paris

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel last night addressed a gala dinner hosted by the France-Israel Chamber of Commerce, alongside French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Frenkel was scheduled to speak about the Israeli economy and its integration in Europe. Earlier this week, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said in a world where several economic blocks are forming, Israel must look to greater ties with Europe.

International panel for conference

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and a host of international politicians, including Jawad Anani, Jordan's deputy prime minister for development, will speak in Tel Aviv next week at a conference staged by the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy. The organization, under the auspices of US economist Michael Porter, aims to encourage Israel and its neighbors to work together.

Car imports continue to drop

The number of vehicles imported shrank 17.1% to 10,020 last month, in comparison to November 1996, according to data published this week by the Treasury. Since January, car imports were down 7.8% to 110,570. In the first 11 months, there were also declines in imports of televisions (9.5%) and video recorders (3%). However, there were increases in imports of refrigerators (7%), washing machines (1.6%), and dishwashers (5.4%).

Japanese economy rebounds slightly

Japan's economy showed a slight rebound in the third quarter after shrinking sharply in the previous quarter due to a rise in the national sales tax, the government's Economic Planning Agency said yesterday. Gross domestic product – the total output of goods and services, minus net income from overseas production – rose a real 0.5% in the quarter. That was the same as a 3.1% rise on an annualized basis.

IMF OKs \$55b. Korea bailout plan

By BILL AUSTIN

Seoul – South Korea was offered at least \$55 billion from the International Monetary Fund, the US, Japan and others in what will be the largest economic rescue ever mounted.

The country, which has world's 11th-largest economy, will probably forfeit jobs and years of economic growth in return to help in shoring up its bankrupt financial and industrial companies. The rescue will dwarf the one arranged for Mexico almost three years ago and those mustered this year for Thailand and Indonesia.

The IMF-led bailout, sealed yesterday in Seoul after seven days of negotiations and several false alarms, is unlikely to provide a quick fix for the Korea's battered financial markets. After a record 15,000 companies filed for bankruptcy this year, more may go under as the economy slows.

Korea's foreign debt is among Asia's most widely held. Korean banks and finance companies are also big investors in emerging markets such as Russia and Latin

between and Lim and Camdessus on what policy conditions would be attached.

"while Korea remains in compliance with the Fund arrangement," he said.



Pupils at Seoul's Sangmyung elementary school line up with US dollar notes yesterday during a campaign collecting dollars to help ease South Korea's currency crisis.

America. The agreement came after Korean Finance Minister Lim Chang Yuel and Bank of Korea Governor Lee Kyung Shik signed a letter of intent summarizing the economic steps Korea will take in return for the bailout.

The agreement was on hold most of the day as talks continued the economic program with a three-year standby credit of \$21 billion. He said the president of the World Bank offered to provide up to \$10 billion and the Asian Development Bank \$4 billion.

eral false alarms, a reflection of the monumental stakes involved: Refuse aid to Korea and the result may be a domino effect of banks scrambling to recall loans. But hand over \$55 billion without exacting huge concessions, and other countries may think having a messy financial house is no real problem.

Greenspan sees end to Asia crisis

By LAURA COHN and VINCENT DEL GIUDICE

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan predicted Asia's financial crisis will be resolved and lead to a stronger global economy – as long as Asian leaders avoid "wishful thinking" and open their markets to the "full force of competition."

a speech a year ago this week, he issued no warnings about "irrational exuberance" or the level of US stock indexes. The dollar and US Treasury bonds were little changed in Asian trading.

Overall, "It was an upbeat message with some warnings" about what countries must do to pull themselves out of crisis, including restructuring of their banking systems, said Raymond K. Price Jr., president of the Economic Club of New York. Greenspan's hosts for the evening.

opportunities must be allowed to emerge."

In a question session after the speech, Greenspan said "asset price deflation is the really virulent problem that we should all be concerned about. And there, the difference between inflation and deflation intertwine since it is exceptionally difficult to get asset deflation without first getting asset inflation. The Japanese experiences of recent years clearly exhibit both sides of that equation."

but there have been some positive signs there, as well. Banks have been recognizing losses and the government seems finally to be appropriately addressing their problems."

Once Asian nations address their leading lapses. "There is no reason that above-average growth in countries that are still in a position to gain from catching up with the prevailing technology cannot persist for a very long time, providing their markets opened to the full force of competition," he said.

Treasury approves emergency IAI package

Transport Ministry about to publish public transport tenders

The Finance Ministry has agreed to postpone the incorporation of Israel Aircraft Industries' aircraft inspection division and its stock exchange issue as part of an emergency package for the ailing company, according to sources in the ministry.

will commence in the next few days.

An agreement to this effect was reached yesterday at a special meeting to discuss IAI's cash flow and working capital crisis, attended by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and a host of senior civil servants.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Israeli-British group to aid PA economy

By DAVID HARRIS

Members of the Israel-Britain Business Council pledged yesterday to work to aid the Palestinian economy through a series of measures approved yesterday in Tel Aviv.

Top business people from the two countries met last night with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to inform him of their desire to aid the peace process and to attract British investors to Israel. The organization, set up by former prime ministers John Major and Yitzhak Rabin and jointly chaired by Marks and Spencer Chairman Sir Richard Greenberg and Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper, agreed to the following steps:

- Underpinning the peace process by developing joint ventures between the two countries and third parties, especially the PA, Jordan and Egypt.
- Intensifying the activities of the IBBC's ongoing joint working parties in areas including high-tech, tourism and health care.
- Broadening IBBC membership to include more senior business executives.
- Selecting joint projects that would involve the participation of the PA, Jordan and Egypt. Next

year the focus will be on the Karmi industrial park in Gaza.

Initiating a tripartite meeting of British, Israeli and PA business-

Promoting and facilitating the role of Israeli companies in British Government procurement.

Adopting the Tel Aviv Metro as a priority project next year.

Possibly aiding the PA in establishing a mortgage system, including legal and collection support.

The Israeli government already has approved 1998 funding for the IBBC, and a statement from the organization says it expects a similar move on the part of the British.

"There are more than a few [British] companies that have expressed interest in trilateral work [with the PA], where we can supply the both the Middle East base and the technology and they can supply the market and the finances," said Propper. Israeli exports to the UK rose 27 percent in the first nine months to \$1.2 billion, however imports shrank 6.5% to \$1.9b. Greenberg, whose M&S chain this week ended its relationship with its Israeli franchisee MSIF, yesterday refused to talk to the media.

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Preliminary police investigation reveals Model shot lover, then self

By ELI WOHLGELER

The late model Anat Elimelech fired her gun twice, killing her boyfriend David Afuta before shooting herself, police said yesterday, citing preliminary findings.

The couple was buried yesterday at Givat Shaul cemetery. "Anat, I bring you the flowers that David sent you," her father said, after placing a big garland on her grave.

Afuta was a well-known hairdresser who was Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's barber until two weeks ago. He also did Sara Netanyahu's hair.

"This is a big blow for us and for me especially," Mrs. Netanyahu said. "It's very unfortunate about the life of two young people. They are lost forever. I always said about any problem that the solution is communication, not violence."



OC Women's Corps Brig.-Gen. Orit Adatto addresses WIZO members at a luncheon in Tel Aviv.

'IDF opening up to women'

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Women serving in the IDF are "valuable resources that shouldn't be wasted," OC Women's Corps Brig.-Gen. Orit Adatto said this week, noting that increasingly, traditionally male roles in the army are being opened up to female soldiers.

Among career officers, a greater number of women are earning university degrees, just as those women not in uniform are flocking to obtain higher education. The gaps in the training of women in Israel as a whole — their relative absence in the fields of math, science and technology for example — also affect the army. Therefore, she said, the army is cooperating with high schools in programs designed to encourage women to enter those fields.

US Reform Jews seek administrative compromise

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The American Reform movement has suggested that the Neeman Commission seek an administrative solution for conversions, unless the Orthodox could adopt the principles of a compromise which ultimately failed in the US more than a decade ago.

"You cannot put together an Orthodox commitment to Jewish law with a Reform commitment to autonomy," Goldberg continued. "They didn't mix, and each side violated its own integrity as each side saw its own integrity."



SMART SHOPPING

On power centers and megastores

By RACHEL NEUMAN

The country is getting bigger, at least judging from the amount of floor space devoted to shopping. After a decade of building malls and cultivating a mall culture, replete with mall-rats, the past three years have been characterized by the next step: the megastore and the power center.

The reason for opening the Aminach Centers was "world trends and local trends." Since opening the first Aminach Center near Haifa in 1994, Schwartz said that "revenues have increased, compared with our smaller stores." So much so that the process of opening megastores "also involves closing our small stores and opening larger ones in power centers."

significant expansion of its home textile selection, modeled after Bed, Bath, and Beyond of the US, at a NIS 1.2 million investment. Hippo, the newest megastore, is a joint effort by Steimatzyk, Bug Computers, and Tower Records. The idea is to provide the full range of media: books, records, and computer multimedia, with each partner working in its field of speciality. Hippo's models are Barnes & Noble, Borders, and WOW of the US and FNAC of France.

The local version of power centers is not the classic one, as in most cases the stores do not offer discount prices. But they do offer value for money, points out Ben Zion Izchaki, marketing manager for Hamashbir Fashion Warehouses. Free parking is the biggest draw, for both customer and retailers, he said. "Shopping in town means adding the price of parking to your bill, which puts pressure on consumers and detracts from the shopping experience. Lots and lots of free parking is key. People who come to power centers come to buy. They are not entertainment centers; there are no movie houses, no cafes."

| ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD | | LAST CHANGE | | LAST CHANGE | |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------|----------------|-------------|--------|
| Brimmer Inc. | 44 | -0.2075 | Lovell Co Inc. | 47.25 | -1.025 |
| Briggs & Stratton | 50.825 | -0.125 | Macquarie | 38.625 | -0.625 |
| Brunswick | 56.875 | -0.25 | McCormick | 44.875 | -0.125 |
| Buckley | 1.25 | 0 | McDonald's | 37.875 | -0.025 |
| Case | 23.75 | -0.5 | Meadowcroft | 57.875 | -0.125 |
| Case Western Reserve | 78.875 | -0.25 | Merrill Lynch | 40.875 | -0.125 |
| Case Corp. | 12.5 | -0.125 | MetroPCS | 31.875 | -0.125 |
| Casey | 1.25 | -0.125 | Microware | 48.875 | -0.125 |
| Casey | 1.25 | -0.125 | Mobil | 48.875 | -0.125 |
| Casey | 1.25 | -0.125 | Motorola | 34.875 | -0.125 |
| Casey | 1.25 | -0.125 | Motorola | 34.875 | -0.125 |
| Casey | 1.25 | -0.125 | Motorola | 34.875 | -0.125 |

CRITICS' CHOICE

ENGLISH POETRY

HELEN KAYE

Yes, Virginia, there is English-language poetry in Israel. It's called Voices and the group has an annual poetry competition named for the late Reuben Rose...

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Edward Albee's lacerating Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? keeps coming back to our stages. And why not? It's a tour de force for four good actors...

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

It's opera time at the Philharmonic as Antonio Pappano leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert performance of Verdi's penultimate opera, Otello...

In Italian with Hebrew super-titles. Tonight and December 15 and 17 at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and December 7, 10 and 13 at the Haifa Auditorium...

The Jerusalem Rubin Music Academy salutes



Antonio Pappano leads the IPO in a concert performance of Verdi's 'Otello.'

Norwegian music tonight (8:30) in a concert featuring the music of Harald Saeverud and Arne Nordheim...

The Israel Woodwind Quintet performs the world premiere of Shimon Cohen's quintet celebrating the composer's 70th birthday tomorrow (noon) at the Targ Center in Ein Karem, Jerusalem...

Shalev Ad-El leads the Academia Daniel in Hebrew Baroque music from 17th century Venice Friday (9:30) at the House of Grace Church in Haifa...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:20 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's programs, 6:30 Rainbow Children, 7:00 This Morning, 8:00 Riva Mitchell...

CHANNEL 3

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 4

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 5

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 6

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 7

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 8

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 9

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

CHANNEL 10

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 4 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News flash, News, Wheel of Fortune, Lethal Money, etc.

romantic tale in a world of lesbians. With Guinevere Turner... 23:00 Tonight Show... 23:00 Soccer: Europe vs. Rest of the World...

6:00 News Flash, 6:31 News in Arabic, 6:44 Good Morning Israel, 15:00 America's Funniest People...

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The weather forecast was unavailable due to the Histadrut strike

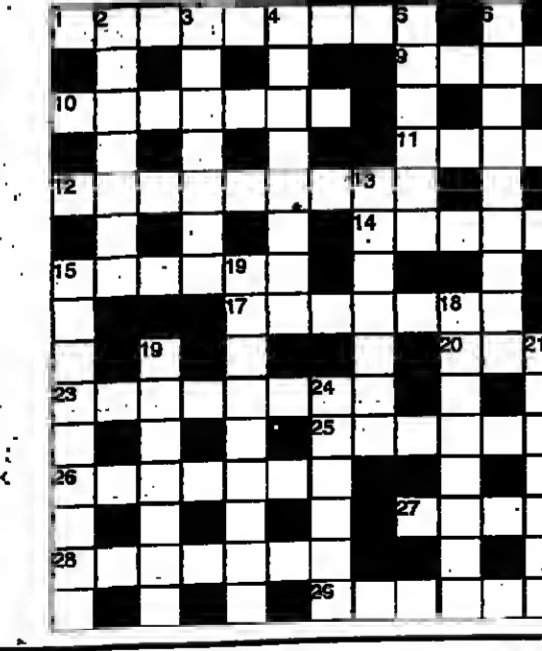
Advertisement for THE JERUSALEM POST INTERNATIONAL EDITION with logo and text.

WINNING CARDS in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily chance drawing. Shows a hand of cards: 9 of hearts, 7 of clubs, Jack of spades, 10 of diamonds.

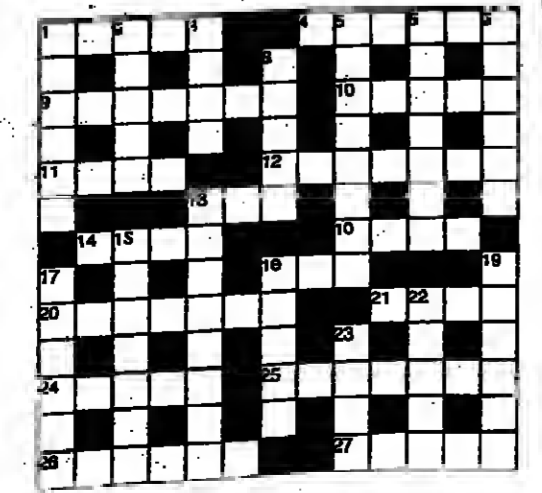
DRIVE CAREFULLY advertisement with a graphic of a car and text.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Polaris calls for old PM's seaman (5,4), 9 No-one's sore coming back from a rubbing down (7), 10 Make an impressive design in blue maybe but it is only superficial (7), 11 Lakes 'ed transformed in the Lake District (7), 12 Guard reading orders with little hesitation (9), 14 Gymnasium event finishes poor people on them (4,4), 15 A plant to tantalise the novice (6), 17 They not only rouse up the game, they win (7), 20 Stary part of a fast rally (6), 23 Tagged onto boy holding beautiful girl (8), 25 Intent, would you say, this daring young man? (9)



SOLUTIONS for the cryptic crossword. Includes words like PACHYSTICH, INDIANAR, JACARANDA, MESQUITE, MEGALOPOLIS, GYPSY, FOREST, VIGOROUS, ASTHILANTIN, PFE.



- QUICK CROSSWORD: ACROSS: 1 Thief (5), 4 Male goose (6), 9 Apprehend (7), 10 Prizes (6), 11 Similar (4), 12 Without enough room (7), 13 Tree (3), 14 Cheese (4), 16 Whirlpool (4), 18 Psa case (3), 20 Tread underfoot (7), 21 Level (4), 24 Bond winner picker (5), 25 Cut (7), 26 St Stephen (8), 27 System of belief (5). DOWN: 1 Gear (6), 2 Stuffing material (6), 3 Total defeat (4), 5 Lively (8), 6 Let fall (7), 7 Dwell (6), 8 Settle (5), 13 Fit (8), 15 Coach (7), 17 Rill (6), 18 Money (5), 19 Attain (6), 23 Pass (5), 25 Element (4)

MOVIES

JERUSALEM: G.G. Gil Jerusalem Mail (Malina) = 9788448 The Game-G.I. Jane 4:45, 7:15, 9:45... JANE: G.I. Jane-Murder at 1600 5, 7:30, 10... RAV-NEGEV 1-4 = 8232579 Face/Off 4:30, 7:15, 9:45... PANDORA = 8302022 The Full Monty 5, 7, 9:30... PANORAMA = 8302022 The Full Monty 5, 7, 9:30... PANORAMA = 8302022 The Full Monty 5, 7, 9:30... PANORAMA = 8302022 The Full Monty 5, 7, 9:30...

Knicks blow another 4th-quarter lead

Inside

Pakistan humble Windies Page 18

Spurs rally behind Robinson, Duncan to beat NY 90-84

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - David Robinson and Tim Duncan scored 23 points apiece to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a come-from-behind 90-84 victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday. It was the sixth loss of the season for the Knicks, who have blown fourth-quarter leads in all of their defeats.

Hawks 112, Mavericks 79 Steve Smith scored a season-high 28 points, 18 in the first half, and visiting Atlanta eased to its fourth straight victory. Dikembe Mutombo, Christian Laettner and Ed Gray all added 15 points as the Hawks improved their league-best record to 15-2 with their largest margin of victory this season.

Israel whips Danes By ELI GRONER

The Israeli national basketball team jumped out to a comfortable lead, before cruising to a 95-76 away victory over Denmark in Fredricksberg last night. The win gave Israel a perfect 3-0 record in the semifinals of the European Championship's preliminary round, while the loss left Denmark still looking for its first triumph...



NO WAY OUT - Nuggets' LaPhonso Ellis looks to pass after grabbing a loose ball. Rockets' Clyde Drexler looms over the prostrate Ellis. Houston beat Denver 112-101.

Suddenly, downtown DC comes alive

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - Appropriately, Washington sports mogul Abe Pollin dedicated his new downtown arena Tuesday night with a Shehehyanuk-like prayer. Standing at centercourt prior to the tip-off between his Wizards and the Seattle SuperSonics, Pollin told the 20,000 fans in attendance that he had much to be thankful for - "most of all, to the good Lord for letting me see this day."

The MCI Center's initiation was a grand affair, complete with a red carpet outside, a pre-game laser display, a costumed wizard bungee-jumping onto the court from the ceiling, a colorguard and the Star-Spangled Banner played by saxophonist Branford Marsalis. Tuxedoed staff greeted patrons. And - yes - there was the game, with President Bill Clinton cheering on the Wizards' 95-78 victory in Pollin's private suite.

Maple Leafs to move to Northeast Division

PALM BEACH (AP) - The Toronto Maple Leafs will join traditional rivals Montreal and Boston in the National Hockey League's Northeast Division beginning next season. The league's Board of Governors approved Toronto's move from the Central Division on Tuesday.

Avalanche bury Oilers behind Forsberg

DENVER (AP) - The Colorado Avalanche beat the Edmonton Oilers again. The Ottawa Senators did the same against the New York Islanders. Peter Forsberg scored two goals as the Avalanche beat the Oilers 4-2 Tuesday night. Colorado is 10-0-1 against Edmonton in their last 11 regular-season meetings.

Table with columns for European Championships (Group C, L, P) for Israel, Spain, England, Belarus, Denmark, and Ukraine.

SCOREBOARD Alon Hazzan signed with Watford of the English second division yesterday. He will join Israel international Ronnie Rosenthal there. In Premier League action last night, West Ham United beat Crystal Palace 4-1 (West Ham United - John Harrison 31, Eyal Berkovic 45, David Unsworth 48, Steve Loupas 71, Crystal Palace - Neil Shipperley 41).

Advertisement for 'ISRAEL 50' album, featuring a large image of the number 50 and the word ISRAEL.

Form for ordering 'THE REAL ANNIVERSARY ALBUM FROM BEN-GURION TO NETANYAHU'. Includes fields for name, address, phone, and payment options.

English, US fear World Cup repeat MARSEILLE, France (AP) - Ob no, not again. Another England vs. Germany confrontation could be looming in today's World Cup draw and there's every chance the US will meet 1994 opponent Colombia again.

מכזאמן האשכול